Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:
**Have you had your flu shot yet?**

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Angry mourners bury victims of a counteroffensive by Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

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Mariah Carey embarrassed to learn that she was booked to perform a concert linked to Gadhafi.

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## SENATE TO CONGRESS:

# 'Weigh impact of FAS-like status on citizens'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate is asking the U.S. Congress to consider the socio-economic impact on U.S. citizens of giving improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, which local senators are proposing after conducting 10 public hearings.

Senators amended yesterday a resolution formally adopting a committee's final recommendation to Congress to grant nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 a status "similar" to those granted to Freely Associated States.

The amendment asks Congress to consider the economic and employment impacts and effects on U.S. citizens in the CNMI "of granting nonim-

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Hofschneider

# Quitano guilty of attempted murder, 10 other charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A jury has pronounced Fernando C. Quitano guilty of attempted murder and eight other charges for his role in a 2009 armed robbery of a pawnshop. He was acquitted of one count of attempted murder.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found Quitano guilty of two counts of assault and battery, and not guilty of contempt.

Quitano

Quitano will be sentenced in the last week of April 2011.

The jurors reached a verdict late afternoon yesterday after deliberating for only an hour and a half.

The jurors found Quitano guilty of one count of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of armed robbery, one count of burglary, one count of theft, and one

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## CAREER DAY

Police sergeant Anthony Macaranas explains to first grade students how police gadgets and equipment are used for their operation in ensuring the safety and protection of the community. Macanaras, along with police officer Simon Manacop, was among the more than 60 professionals who took part in yesterday's annual Tanapag Elementary School Career Day.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

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# 5 years after getting CIP funding, new Rota landfill yet to get off the ground

## » Grant to expire in six months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Five years after the CNMI received Section 702 capital improvement project funding for the construction of a new Rota landfill, the government has yet to finalize the project with barely six months to go before the grant expires.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday the grant expires on Sept. 1, 2011, and will not receive any extension as it has already been extended before.

"I write to express the urgency of moving forward with the Rota landfill project which received its 702 CIP funding since FY 2006. As you are aware, it has been five years and your office has yet to finalize the project," Manglona said in a letter to CIP administrator Virginia C. Villagomez.

Villagomez is currently off-island. Her office earlier identified the Fitial administration's proposed $13 million in priority CIPs for fiscal year 2012. But the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Af-

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**15-year extension of land lease in Lower Base OK'd. PAGE 2**
**CUC privatization bill now heads to governor. PAGE 4**

# Local

# Lawmakers OK 15-year extension of land lease in Lower Base

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time since the 17th Legislature's inauguration, the House and Senate held a brief joint session yesterday afternoon to approve a 15-year lease extension involving some 4,530 square meters of public land in Lower Base.

JL Reyes Inc. currently has a 25-year land lease with the Department of Public Lands expiring in September 2011.

Article XI section 5(c) of the NMI Constitution requires that any 15-year extension of public land lease should be approved by at least three-fourths of the members of the Legislature.

Because of the lower appraised value of the approximately 4,530 square meters of public land, JL Reyes Inc. will be paying a lower annual rental for the first five of the additional 15-year lease than what it is currently paying.

JL Reyes Inc. is currently paying $5,720.83, and this will decrease to $4,720 in the first five years—from 2011 to 2016.

The subsequent annual lease rentals will be based on 8 percent of the fair market value of the property, which will be reappraised every five years.

Lawmakers approved JL Reyes Inc.'s proposed 15-year extension by adopting Joint Session Resolution 17-2 on a vote of 26-0.

The approved 15-year lease extension comes into effect on Sept. 26, 2011, and will expire on Sept. 25, 2026.

Only 26 of 29 members of the House and Senate voted because Sen. Jovita Taimañao (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) were absent, while Rep. Rafael Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) vote was not counted.

Former public works secretary Juan Reyes, who owns JL Reyes Inc., was the first to put up a facility in Lower Base in 1986.

He said lawmakers "cannot afford to lose another business," given the economic downturn.

"Back then, it's all *tangan-tangan*," he said. "I'm the first one to develop the area. There were no buildings at the time when I put up a warehouse and office space. My warehouse is now being rented by the Water Task Force."

The former public works secretary's business, JL Reyes Inc., is leasing the tract of public land for its construction and warehouse rental business.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, who was also at the joint legislative session, endorsed the lease extension, rather than allowing the property to sit idle for years, especially now that Lower Base has fewer economic activities since the garment factories closed.

The DPL secretary said JL Reyes Inc. has paid $37,439.15 since the execution of the land lease in 1986, to the present.

Reyes signed a 25-year lease agreement with the Marianas Public Lands Corp., now Department of Public Lands, on March 26, 1986. Under that original agreement, he was to pay DPL $1,913.46 annually in land rental.

Every five years after that, the annual rental amount changed, depending on appraisal value.

From 1991 to 1996, the annual rental amount increased to $2,811.49, and from 1996 to 2001, increased to $3,562.68.

From 2001 to 2006, JL Reyes Inc. was paying $4,514.59 a year before paying $5,720.83 from 2006 to present.

## Questions

The joint session presided by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) lasted only about 30 minutes.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) introduced Joint Session Resolution 17-1, which calls for the adoption of the rules of a joint session.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) made a written floor amendment that lawmakers adopted unanimously, before voting on the main motion to pass the resolution.

When Joint Senate Resolution 17-2 or the JL Reyes land lease extension resolution was brought up, both DPL's Babauta and Reyes answered some questions from lawmakers before voting on the measure, 26-0.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) asked the DPL secretary to expound on the reported breach of the lease.

Babauta said that while the lessee has breached the lease, the discrepancies were addressed and cured in a timely manner and were not material breaches, which would merit a termination of the lease.

As stated in his letter to the Legislature, these breaches which have been resolved accordingly included: subleasing to certain entities without DPL's consent; non-submission of required documents specified in the lease; execution of documents such as mortgage and conveyance without DPL's consent; conducting activities outside of the purpose stated in the lease; and conducting construction and/or demolition for improvements that exceed a specified dollar amount in the lease without DPL's consent or written disapproval.

The lawmakers then voted on the resolution, and the session wrapped up after that.

The House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) and the Senate Committee on Resources, Development and Programs chaired by Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) were the ones who jointly pre-filed on Wednesday SJR 17-2 on the lease extension.

Babauta said yesterday that DPL and JL Reyes Inc. will be executing the land lease extension agreement or contract shortly.

Reyes said as of this time, JL Reyes does not plan to expand or build new facilities on the leased land but vowed to continue maintaining the property. With the additional 15 years, JL Reyes Inc. now has a 40-year land lease contract with DPL.

"It will depend on the economic situation. But at least there's guaranteed annual land lease payment for the next 15 years," Reyes said.

The original lessee's name was Rainbow Construction Co. but Reyes changed it to JL Reyes Inc. on Aug. 23, 2006.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), left, and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), right, shake hands with House of Representatives members before the start of yesterday's first joint session of the Senate and House since the inauguration of the 17th Legislature.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

### DESPITE HIKE IN SHIPPING, OTHER COSTS:

# CPA vows no hike in airport, seaport fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite increases in shipping fees and other costs by private firms, the Commonwealth Ports Authority vowed to keep its current rates in both airports and seaports.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero gave this assurance, saying the agency will not enforce any changes in its current fees in consideration of the economic hardship being experienced by all sectors on the islands.

"Shipping costs increased and we don't have control of that…but in terms of wharfage and other fees in our seaports and airports, there's no plan to implement any changes at this time. Not in this economy," he said.

According to seaport manager MaryAnn Lizama, CPA had its last wharfage increase in 2009 and that intends to adhere to the existing rate scheme despite many financial challenges in its operations.

"Instead of rate increases, we're looking at reducing CPA's expenditures to sustain our operations. We've been examining all areas where we can streamline our expenses," she said.

CPA implemented a six-month across-the-board eight-hour work reduction in all CPA divisions in fiscal year 2010 to minimize expenses. The 80-hour biweekly work schedule was reinstated only this fiscal year.

Deleon Guerrero said the agency will retain its employees' regular work schedule until the end of the fiscal year.

Of the 228 full-time positions at CPA, only about 198 are currently filled, Deleon Guerrero said, resulting in substantial savings from 30 unfilled posts.

He said division chiefs were also trained on effective leadership to help the agency identify priority needs for each division.

## Debt service ratio

If the ports authority failed to maintain compliance with its airport debt service ratio last fiscal year, Deleon Guerrero is confident that CPA will fully meet the requirements in 2011. The required debt service ratio for both airport and seaport is 1.25.

"Now we're at 1.30 [debt service ratio] and we continue to move up. I am confident we will meet the bond indenture requirements this fiscal year 2011 because we have already addressed the many unexpected things from the outset," he said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that CPA got a clean bill in its audit report in fiscal year 2009.

However, due to unanticipated costs—amounting to $1.4 million—the agency failed to keep its compliance with the bond requirements in the third and fourth quarter of fiscal year 2010.

Among these unanticipated costs were: $103,000 for the added repair work on the baggage handling system; $95,680 for the Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting Inc. soil contamination project; $132,000 paid to the Internal Revenue Service; and $68,000 paid to the U.S. Department of Labor for noncompliance issues.

# Earlier settlement conference sought in sex harassment suit

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Pacific Airport Services Inc. have agreed to hold a settlement conference at an earlier date in connection with a sexual harassment lawsuit filed in federal court.

EEOC, through Regional Attorney Anna Y. Park, and PASI, through its lawyer Colin M. Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to conduct the settlement conference on March 14, 2011, instead of the original schedule of June 25, 2011.

EEOC's supervisory trial attorney Derek W. Li, who signed the stipulated motion and will traveling from Los Angeles, California, said he will be on Saipan on another matter on March 10, 2011, before the federal court.

To conserve government resources, Li asked the court to reschedule the settlement conference in this case so it can be held on the same trip.

"The parties seek to conserve resources in an effort to settle this case, before possibly expending additional expenses and resources in dispositive motion practice," said the lawyers.

According to EEOC's lawsuit, PASI failed to take action on a complaint filed by a female employee against its manager.

EEOC alleged that PASI subjected the complainant and other female employees to sexual harassment, resulting in a hostile work environment and constructive discharge.

The woman was allegedly compelled to submit her resignation on Jan. 24, 2007. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# Retirees' lawyer defends beneficiary derivative act bill

## » Claims retirees behind the proposed legislation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A lawyer representing a retirees' group yesterday defended the proposed beneficiary derivative act for the Commonwealth and admits that his clients are the ones behind the bill.

Attorney Robert O'Connor said that beneficiaries of trusts and retirement fund programs should have the same standing and rights to sue as shareholders of corporations.

Senate Bill 17-43, or the Beneficiary Derivative Act, seeks to allow retirees to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the Fund when the trustees who manage them refuse to bring such actions.

O'Connor described the proposed measure as a very modest bill whose goal is to protect the rights of trust beneficiaries and is similar to laws in all 50 states.

He said the bill would provide benefits to both the retirees and the Fund itself, at no cost to the Fund. The retirees would retain their own legal counsel and all the money they recover would go back into the Fund, minus reasonable attorney fees.

O'Connor said the Fund doesn't need to hire an attorney to monitor or defend the lawsuit and, if the suit is successful, would benefit the Fund.

"The reason why actions can be brought by either the retirees or their 'intended beneficiaries' is obvious—an intended beneficiary [the retiree's spouse or children] are dependent on the retirement benefits and have a very important reason to want to protect those interests," he explained.

He cited the lawsuit filed by three retirees against Merrill Lynch for alleged improper fund management practices. The Fund, he said, refused to sue to recover these monies, so these retirees sued instead.

He pointed out that Merrill Lynch has been charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with misleading pension clients. It recently settled those charges by paying a $1 million penalty, he said.

"The SEC charged Merrill Lynch with violations of an anti-fraud provision of the Advisor's Act. Merrill Lynch has agreed to a censure and to cease these violations. That action by the SEC alleged that Merrill Lynch made misrepresentations to its pension fund [retirement fund] clients and failed to disclose information. The lawsuit filed by CNMI retirees against Merrill Lynch makes similar allegations and seeks tens of millions of dollars," he said.

O'Connor said the lawsuit would be more effective if the Fund joins the lawsuit, but it has refused to do so, so CNMI retirees introduced S.B. 17-43 to allow them to continue the case, at no expense to and on behalf of the Fund.

He said the bill seeks to enlarge the statute of limitations because the problems went on for more than six years and because the Fund's trustees have refused to take any action on the problem at that time.

O'Connor said unless the retirees can sue to recover beyond the normal time limits of six years, they will potentially lose many millions of dollars.

Contrary to a Fund statement, O'Connor claimed that derivative actions rarely require any bond to be posted before they are filed. Also contrary to a Fund testimony, in the event the retirees lose their lawsuit, which is unlikely, the Fund will not be assessed any expenses, costs, or attorney fees.

"The Fund and its attorneys are supposed to be fiduciaries for the retirees and their families, they are supposed to advocate in favor of the retirees, yet in this instance they are taking positions hostile to the retirees. The CRA [Commonwealth Retirement Association] is the real representative of the retirees, not the Fund's attorneys, and it supports the bill. The Merrill Lynch suit could earn the Fund tens of millions of dollars, yet it is the Fund itself who argues against either joining the lawsuit or supporting the bill," said O'Connor.

The lawyer disclosed that experts from Florida flew all the way to Saipan several months ago to present to the Fund and its staff the reasons why the lawsuit has merit, which the board declined to meet.

O'Connor said that many retirees now feel the Fund is engaging in delaying tactics following its action to commission a fiduciary audit for the Fund.

# 2 CUC power division personnel complete Guam training

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recently completed a rigorous three-week training in Guam that earned them job certifications.

CUC power division line foreman Leeroy K. Greenman and trade technician Ibutirang Mongami attended the training from Feb. 7 to 25.

CUC, in a statement yesterday, lauded their achievement, describing them as two of the agency's finest employees.

The event, coordinated by the Guam Power Authority, was focused on substation maintenance training and was conducted by the AVO Training Institute at the GPA facility.

An electrical substation takes electricity from a very high voltage and lowers it to the voltage use in homes and businesses. CUC has two substations on Saipan: one at Power Plant 1 and the other in Chalan Kiya.

Mongami explained that the training brought together 30 individuals in similar professions.

"Our training was based on maintaining electrical equipment and practicing safety. We were taught the latest and safest methods currently used in our line of work," he said.

According to Greenman, the training covered topics ranging from electrical safety for utilities, to switch gear maintenance, and testing and transformer gas testing.

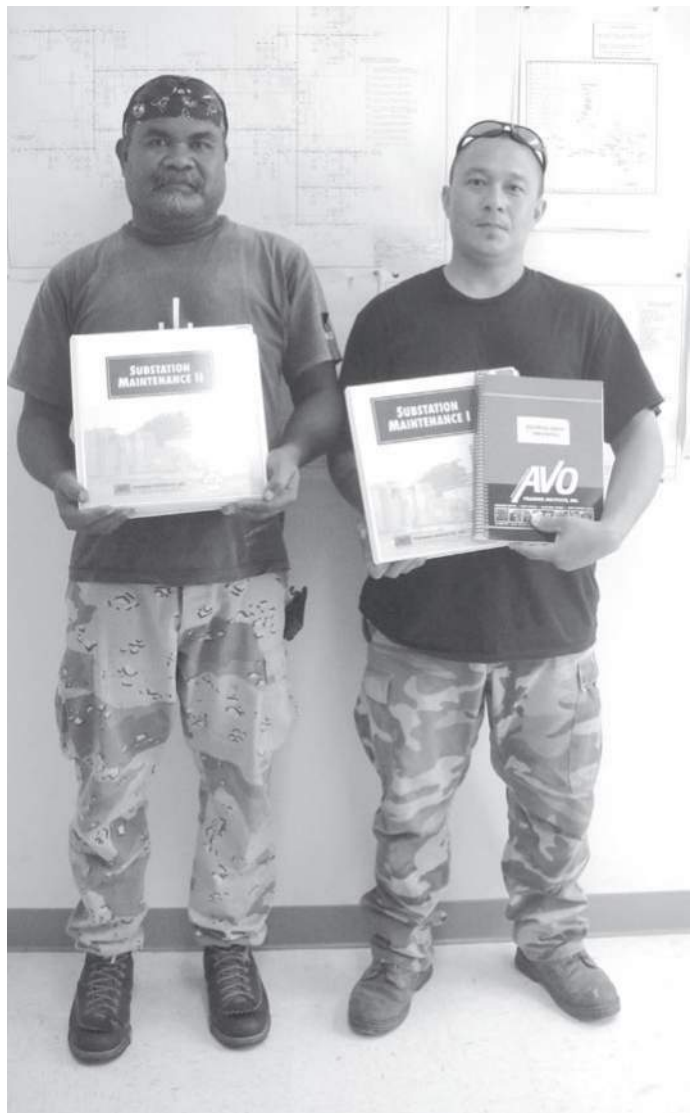
"We learned a lot during the three-week training. I am excited to use and share the new techniques I learned as well as the materials that we brought back with my co-workers so that we all can apply them in our daily assignments," he said.

Gary Camacho, power division manager, said the training was made possible through collaborative efforts between GPA and CUC.

"GPA and CUC have a good working relationship. They offered to invite and include CUC in the training planned for their own staff," he said.

According to Camacho, the substation maintenance training is part of an ongoing program with GPA. He said that CUC and GPA have discussed other areas of training for personnel such as the next level for substation maintenance and underground cable repair.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae congratulated Greenman and Mongami on their accomplishments and vowed to continue to find more ways to develop and enhance CUC employee skills and services.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CUC power division employees Ibutirang Mongami, left, and Leeroy Greenman show the certificates they earned from a recent training in Guam.

Northern Mariana Islands
Council for the Humanities
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Saipan, Tinian, & Rota

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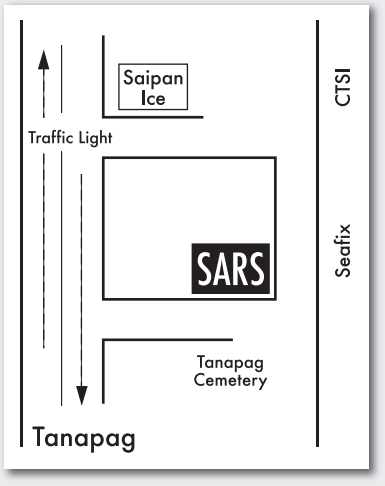

# CUC privatization bill now heads to governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate mirrored yesterday the House's passage of a conference committee bill that restores the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s procurement authority.

Once the bill is signed into law, it will allow CUC to enter into agreements with private companies engaged in renewable energy and those wanting to take over CUC without the previously required minimum investment of $250 million.

House Bill 17-114 now heads to the governor for action.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the senators, except for Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) who was excused from the session, understood the importance of passing the measure.

The CUC privatization bill is one of the priority bills identified by both the Fitial administration and the 17th Legislature in January to help boost the sagging economy.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-114, said he's glad that his bill now heads to the governor.

Torres said without this bill, investors interested in either taking over the whole CUC or those wanting to supply CUC with renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or nuclear battery won't be able to formally enter into agreements with CUC.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed a similar House bill last year mainly due to his objections to the Senate amendments.

When Torres re-introduced a similar bill, the Senate amended it at least thrice.

The House rejected the Senate-amended bill, and called for the formation of a six-member conference committee.

The conference committee came up with a compromise bill that the House passed on Thursday. The Senate passed it a day later.

Among the key provisions of the bill include exempting renewable energy providers from the net metering law, expounding on the types of renewable energy projects, and adding a "build-operate-own contract" to the list of allowable private sector assistance agreement.

About a dozen renewable energy companies made presentations to the Legislature and the Executive Branch in recent months, but CUC still could not partner with these private firms because of legislative restrictions. HB 17-114 lifted those restrictions.

The bill is officially called House Bill 17-114, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, Senate Substitute 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

# Judge dismisses 'ice' charges vs ex-CUC staff

The Superior Court dismissed without prejudice yesterday the "ice" trafficking charges filed against a former employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos dismissed the case against Sylvan Magofna Cabrera after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the charges.

The OAG asked the court to dismiss the case after Cabrera's co-defendant, Pedro Rediall Demapan, and a cooperating source informed the investigators that Cabrera has nothing to do with "ice" trafficking.

Attorney Joe Hill, counsel for Cabrera, asked the court to dismiss the case with prejudice, but the judge granted the government's motion to dismiss the case without prejudice.

Dismissal without prejudice is when a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

Because of the case, Hill said his client lost his job at CUC where he had worked for 13 years, and that his car was impounded at the Department of Public Safety.

Inos ordered the release of Cabrera's vehicle.

Last Feb. 24, Cabrera's co-defendant, Demapan, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and violating his probation. He was sentenced to two years in prison without parole.

Police said that members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force had used a cooperating source to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Demapan. It was, however, Cabrera who allegedly showed up at the agreed meeting place—the parking lot of Ming Ming Store in Chalan Kanoa. Cabrera was aboard a car and allegedly handed the "ice" to the cooperating source.

Cabrera denied he was involved in the drug transaction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# Man allegedly beats up girlfriend at nightclub

A man was arrested shortly after he allegedly beat up his waitress girlfriend at a nightclub in western Garapan early Thursday morning.

Ueki Hiroyoshi, 43, was detained for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $1,500 cash.

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos also required Hiroyoshi to stay away from the alleged victim and to not leave the CNMI without the court's permission.

Hiroyoshi, the manager of a beach concessionaire company, appeared in court yesterday with his counsel, Vincent DLG. Torres, and a translator.

Chief prosecutor Michael Ernest called to the witness stand detective Catherine Pangelinan, who narrated to the court the incident that led to Hiroyoshi's arrest.

Preliminary investigation showed that police received a call about a disturbance at Micronesian Club early Thursday morning.

When the officer arrived at the club, he saw a man later identified as Hiroyoshi yelling while being held by a security guard. Hiroyoshi pushed the guard on the chest and ran off. Police chased and arrested him.

Police learned that prior to the incident, Hiroyoshi allegedly slapped his girlfriend in the face. She ran outside, but Hiroyoshi caught her in the storage room where he allegedly kicked her in the stomach thrice. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

**JOINT SESSION**
Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), left, and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), right, share a light moment while waiting for the other lawmakers to settle in their designated seats before the start of yesterday's first joint legislative session since the 17th Legislature's inauguration.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## IMPACT

*From Page 1*

migrant workers improved legal status which entitles them to social welfare and employment benefits."

By a vote of 8-0, senators adopted Senate Resolution 17-42, Senate Draft 1 yesterday afternoon.

The resolution, introduced by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), encourages Congress to adopt the Senate recommendation on improving the immigration status of guest workers.

It states in part that the CNMI Senate requests Congress "to accept" the FRIA Committee's recommendation "as a sensible compromise on improved legal immigration status for guest workers and retention of the right to self-government as guaranteed in the Covenant between the U.S. and the Commonwealth."

Hofschneider's Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies held seven public hearings on whether to grant long-term foreign workers in the CNMI improved status, from June to August 2010.

Based on these public hearings, the FRIA Committee drafted a recommendation to Congress to grant FAS-like status to foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of the signing of the federalization law.

The committee later revised the draft to include an additional five-year waiting period or until 2013 before these foreign workers could apply for a FAS-like status.

The FRIA Committee held three additional public hearings to present their latest draft to the public.

As a result of those last public hearings on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, the committee decided to scrap the additional waiting to become eligible for a FAS-like status.

FAS citizens from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae can freely travel to, work, live and study in the U.S. mainland and territories.

Hofschneider and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said they, along with Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), will personally deliver the Senate recommendation to Congress in Washington, D.C. in the week of March 14.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, in a phone interview, said he will help the CNMI senators deliver their recommendation once they get to Washington, D.C.

Ed Reyes, who came to Saipan in 1997 to work as a civil engineer, said what the Senate is recommending to Congress is a "big help" to foreign workers like him.

"With the status they're proposing, foreign workers won't need to renew their contracts every year, and they can also now travel to the U.S. mainland, Guam or Hawaii," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Reyes said while he's eligible for a FAS-like status as proposed by the Senate to Congress, he said he will continue to work in the CNMI which has become his home away from home.

While he said he will go on vacation in the U.S. mainland or Hawaii, he will continue to be an engineer on Saipan. He said his employer is also poised to petition him and his colleagues for an H1B visa, although they're on a wait-and-see mode because the transitional worker regulations could be issued soon.

Many workers also applaud the CNMI Senate for coming up with a recommendation to Congress. Some worker groups, however, continue to push Congress to grant outright citizenship or pathway to citizenship or "green card" to long-term foreign workers.

## FUNDING

*From Page 1*

fairs only has some $9.523 million in proposed CIP funding for the CNMI in 2012.

The Fitial administration's priority CIPs include $1.625 million for the construction of a landfill on Rota. However, OIA's proposed budget only gives $1,190,375 for this Rota landfill project.

This is the same amount of OIA-proposed funding for a new Tinian landfill.

But Manglona, in an interview yesterday, said the administration has been listing the Rota landfill as a priority project but has never gotten around to completing it.

Manglona met with John Gourley of Micronesia Environmental Services and CIP-Rota representative Leona Sablan on Thursday.

The Senate president said after the meeting, "It is practical to state that due to the approaching deadline, your office shall immediately work in sync with contracting engineers to assess the cost of closing down the existing dumpsite on Rota according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and investigate whether groundwater is contaminated in its surrounding areas."

Manglona said it is of great concern that the current dump has been under a series of violation of Division of Environmental Quality regulations or laws and should therefore move forward with a realistic plan.

"No time should be delayed further as the deadline approaches in less than six months. I believe a lot can be done simultaneously rather than waiting for Mr. Gourley to complete his assessment," Manglona told Villagomez.

DEQ issued an administrative order to the Rota mayor's office for noncompliance with landfill operating requirements, resulting in penalties.

## QUITANO

*From Page 1*

count of conspiracy to commit robbery.

He got off on one count of attempted murder.

The trial began on Monday.

The Office of the Attorney had charged Quitano, Marlon Martin, and Zhou Fan Zhang for the armed robbery at 24 Hours Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 23, 2009.

The pawnshop's cashier was seriously injured, while its 72-year-old owner, Jung Sang So, was also hurt when two masked men, armed with a sledgehammer, a machete, and an air-rifle attacked them during the daylight robbery.

The bloodied cashier joined two other persons in chasing the two suspects. Martin was arrested by responding police officers. The other suspect, later identified by police as Quitano, managed to escape.

The robbers reportedly got away with about $6,000 cash from the pawnshop.

Martin has already pleaded guilty to armed robbery. He was sentenced in April 2010 to seven years in prison, with no parole.

The government dismissed the case against Zhang. The fourth suspect—Steven Suzuki—was not charged after he cooperated with the government in the investigation.

Police said that Zhang and Suzuki were in the getaway vehicle.

Assistant attorneys general Russell Lorfing and Tiberius Mocanu prosecuted the case. Attorney Stephen Woodruff served as counsel for the defendant.

# $800,000 in publicity from Saipan Marathon

Crews from four television stations and two magazines in Japan descend on the Northern Mariana Islands this weekend to cover the 6th Saipan Marathon today, March 5, bringing an estimated $800,000 in international ad exposure for this island resort destination.

This year's marathon, half-marathon, and 10K have attracted a record number 833 competitors, who will trace a picturesque course along Saipan's scenic coastline, unspoiled northern greenery, and major tourist district.

The event is an annual signature event of the Northern Marianas organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"The primary purpose of all the MVA's annual sporting events remains to draw visitors to the Northern Marianas and capitalize on international media coverage," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The funds we spend to put on these events are a sound investment to attract this level of publicity, and we thank our sponsors and the community for helping us to make this event a success."

"This year's marathon marks not only the largest number of runners we've ever had, but the largest amount of international media coverage, as well," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We're pleased to see many months of preparation both on-island and in our Japan and Korea offices pay off this weekend. We hope all our visitors have a great time and we wish them good luck in the races."

Television programs covering the event include FBS Genki Matsuri, reaching over 356,000 households in the Fukuoka area. The 15-minute program will include an interview with celebrity runner Kanpei Hazama, who has been instrumental in having this year's Saipan Marathon affiliated with the prestigious Earth Marathon series in Japan.

Other stations and programs covering the event will be Miyagi TV, reaching 87,000 households across Japan; Hirujige-don, reaching almost 60,000 households in the Nagasaki area; and Gokigen Bonito!, reaching 34,000 households nationwide. Two female celebrities and one female reporter will join the marathon as part of the coverage.

Magazines *Fujin Kouron* and *Chikyu no Hashirikata* (*Travel and Run!*) will also cover the event. ***(MVA)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Native Medicine and Culture Association on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, March 5, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Manny F. Borja, Lino M. Olopai, and Carmen S. Taimañao from the Native Medicine and Culture Association. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the cultural center and the Chamorrita research.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former Tinian senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

### Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- March 7-9, from 9am to 11pm
- March 10-11, from 9am to 11pm
- March 12-13, from 9am to 12:59am

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI. ***(USN)***

# Tanapag school exposes students to various careers

**By MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 200 students of Tanapag Elementary School were exposed yesterday to various professions during their annual career day.

Organized by the school's student council, the event brought over 60 presenters to classrooms.

Stuco president Marie Lieto and council historian Irene Olupomar said it's their goal to annually showcase different jobs to inspire students so they would strive for excellence in their studies. They believe that education is the best foundation for building a successful career.

First grader Erin Kim told *Saipan Tribune* that she was amazed to see the state-of-the-art equipment used by the island's policemen in performing their jobs.

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and police officer Simon Manacop were among the group of professionals who shared with Tanapag schoolchildren the importance of their jobs in ensuring that everybody is safe in the community.

Besides the basic career information, the two also demonstrated how particular equipment—both for tactical response enforcement team and explosive response team—are used.

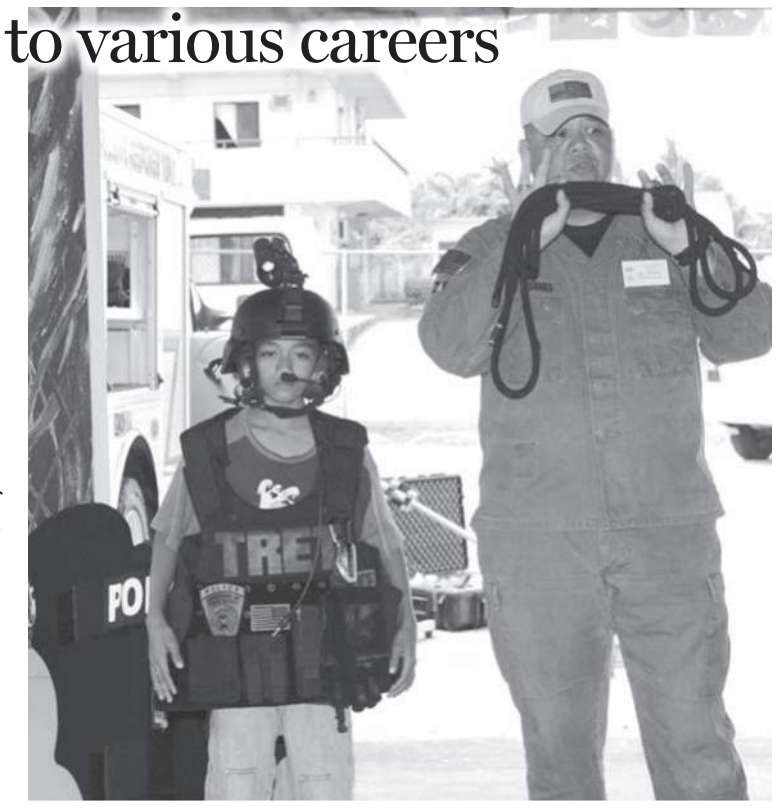
Joe Ruak, the public information officer for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, was also seen discussing with a second grade class how the agency helps preserve the islands' natural resources.

Among the topics he discussed yesterday was the existence of brown-tree snakes and the danger it brings to both people and animals.

Herman Tudela of the Historic Preservation Office also shared with students the vital role of the agency and how they help in the preservation of the island's culture and traditions.

A group of third grade students said the school's career day helps them think of many options to pursue after college. Many of them were eager to pursue a career in medicine and law.

According to Acelia Dela Cruz, Stuco council adviser, many of the 60 presenters were from the government sector, while a significant number represented parent-volunteers from the community.



Sgt. Anthony Macaranas demonstrates how to properly wear police battle gear during yesterday's career day at the Tanapag Elementary School.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

# Green Meadow School students bag top honors in math contest

Competing against some 800 other students from public and private schools, contestants from Green Meadow School won major honors in three math categories and in all grade levels at the MathCourt competition held at Chacha Junior High School on Feb. 19, 2011.

Bagging first place in Algebra/Data Statistics and Probability, Raphael Galang led the other five GMS kindergarten pupils in securing major places.

As expected, GMS first graders Joshua Alfred and Aljanah Joan Manabat as well as second graders Jhanylin Cruz and Christian Dan Palattao also won first honors.

Seven second places were handily bagged by contestants in first and second grade categories. Contestants to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade levels also won honors in all three categories.

Students, parents, teachers, and staff of Green Meadow School are all excited and proud at the outstanding performance of their contestants.

### KINDER

**NUMBERS:**
2nd Place, Lyndon Digno
**ALGEBRA/DSP:**
1st, Raphael Galang
2nd, Cloe Lagmay
2nd, Jill Anne Mallari
2nd, Christian Ted Pamintuan
2nd, Alliah Jiannah Schadeck
**GEOMETRY/MEASUREMENT:**
3rd, Alliah Jiannah Schadeck

### 1ST GRADE

**NUMBERS:**
2nd, Princess Casey Melchor
2nd, Aljanah Joan Manabat
**ALGEGRA/DSP:**
1st, Joshua Alfred
2nd, Princess Casey Melchor
2nd, Marie Ann Hembra
**GEOMETRY/MEASUREMENT:**
1st, Aljanah Joan Manabat
2nd, Princess Casey Melchor
2nd, Joshua Alfred
3rd, Marie Ann Hembra

### 2ND GRADE

**NUMBERS:**
2nd, Aldraine Angelo Galang
2nd, Jhanylin Cruz
**ALGEBRA /DSP:**
1st, Christian Dean Palattao
1st, Jhanylin Cruz
2nd, Xavier Gatmaitan
**MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:**
2nd, Xavier Gatmaitan
3rd, Aldraine Galang

### 3RD GRADE

**NUMBERS:**
4th, Dustin Ross Salilin
5th, Ashley Reganit
**ALGEBRA /DSP:**
3rd, Ashley Reganit
4th, Angel Mae Oropesa
**MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:**
4th, Ian Willard Ranin

### 4TH GRADE

**NUMBERS:**
3rd, Angel Legaspi
4th, Pionnah Rosej Gregorio

**ALGEBRA /DSP:**
2nd, Gelomener Narciso
**MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:**
2nd, Angel Legaspi

### 5TH GRADE

**NUMBERS:**
2nd, Ezekiel Alfred
**ALGEBRA /DSP:**
2nd, Amelito Dalusong
**MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:**
3rd, Ezekiel Alfred

**MathCourt coordinator:** Ana Lisa Quiambao

Students of Green Meadow School have their picture taken after participating in the MathCourt competition at Chacha Junior High School on Feb. 19, 2011.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# Please don't blame California for Charlie Sheen

People of the United States, you may have heard of this guy, Charlie Sheen. It was hard not to miss him this week. Comparing himself to a "warlock," bragging about "banging seven-gram rocks" and claiming his body ran on "tiger's blood," this troubled Hollywood star sought out serial interviews with three TV networks and a celebrity gossip website, reinforcing the stereotype that California is a giant loony bin.

We want to set the record straight. While Charlie lives in California, we share little in common with him and cannot be held accountable for his actions.

True, Sheen grew up in Malibu and attended Santa Monica High School. But he was born in New York City. And even if you were to define him as a Californian, it should be noted that Sheen has spent most of his life south of the Tehachapis. That makes him a Southern Californian, a special breed indeed.

Numerous Hollywood celebrities have engaged in spectacular public meltdowns. Think Lindsay Lohan, Mel Gibson, Colin Farrell, Britney Spears and Robert Downey Jr., to name a few.

But Sheen seems intent on setting a new standard in the genre.

His antics may have ended the run of "Two and a Half Men," the top-rated CBS comedy where he played a sanitized version of himself. He demanded—and then later retracted the demand—that he get $3 million an episode to return.

Like a burning car wreck by the side of the road, Sheen is on fire. We know we should avert our eyes from the wreckage, but we can't help but look, even when Sheen himself urges us to steer clear.

"I am on a drug. It's called Charlie Sheen. It's not available because if you try it, you will die," he said, guaranteeing his place in the narcissism hall of fame. "Your face will melt off, and your children will weep over your exploded body."

Sheen is further evidence that drugs are not meant to be shared. So television networks, please, no more doses of Charlie Sheen. California has enough problems already.

(c) 2011, The Sacramento Bee

## Feckless inaction on piracy

The Obama administration put out a disturbingly weak statement last week after the latest piracy outrage off the coast of Somalia. Four Americans vacationing on a 58-foot yacht died during a standoff between a U.S. warship and the pirate crew that seized their vessel.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the act deplorable,

*See PLEASE on Next Page*

# A Pinoy *Mi Ultima Paalam* Farewell

**By JAIME VERGARA**
*Special to the* Tribune

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the* Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Maharlika *(Mahal na likha)* might have been the Philippine's privileged class term of itself, characterized as "royalty" may not be the appropriate term since in the stratified pre-European contact of the Malay tribes residing in the Islands of the West (aka, Philippines), the favored class were a combination of the warrior and the wise in the old Indo-Aryan caste system, in this case, disparate but together akin to the Chinese system of reciprocal care between the classes rather than a hierarchical pyramid of power, accented more toward the side of the beloved in filial relationship of care rather than on the feared tyrant in a pantheon of patriarchal power.

*Pa-alam* is not really a by-your-leave kind of functional info: "I'm going now"; rather, it is declaring one's presence, to be known and acknowledged and blessed, perhaps, even to be missed when gone, fare-thee-well rather than good-bye! Or, like the Jamaican, "good leaving!"

We just turned 20 when we boarded the USS *Cleveland* on Manila's South Harbor for the Golden Gate by the SF Bay. We vowed to return and we did six years later, in time for Ferdinand Marcos' martially guided democracy. We bid *Maynilad* adieu not long after and wandered the world, raising the developmental query of how the future generation will live in its ghettoes, ranchitos, inner cities, villages, and ruined palaces.

We returned just before messianic Ninoy Aquino spilled blood on Manila's tarmac. We stayed until Cory pinned her yellow ribbon on the archipelago and waved it in front of Reagan's face. Five attempted putsches later, Marcos' cousin Gen. Fidel Ramos, a West Point boy, ascended the house by the Pasig, along with Enrile and his putschers in key government positions. I left shortly before the so-called election.

We joined the diaspora. A guy in HK earlier said to us in conversation when we asked if he was from Iloilo: *"Di 'nong, Pinoy na ko!"* (No, elder brother, I am now a Pinoy!) He chose. We took his cue. Street-smart, world-wise and grandiosely glocal, we turned Pinoy. We are that now and ever.

This Pinoy looks back. If Christianity left any imprint, it is that while we cannot forget, we can decide to forgive. The past is done. *Anshallah,* my Muslim brothers add in sweet surrender. Leave judgment to the workings of Reality. The achievement and shortcoming of the past are finish. We can leave it behind. Forgiveness simply means the past serves as object lesson: we can refrain from repeating it, or, choose to. Spirit offers choices.

This Pinoy looks forward. Social ideology awakened the assertive rights of the poor and the marginalized, while market economy inspired planned and intentional lifestyle. Destiny is in our hands. The future belongs to those who will create it. Fate is the road that we build as we travel. Nothing is determined; neither Armageddon nor utopia waits at the end. Heaven is fulfillment in the here-and-now.

If the Iberian *que sera sera* (what will be will be) is tempered by the native *bahala na* (*Bathala na,* leave it to God), *Anshallah,* an ultimate faith in the trustworthiness of Reality, wishy-washiness forsaken, then only the celebration of the now remains as the viable human option. If there is anything the Pinoy is noted for globally and at home, and often in excess, is a penchant for celebration.

This Pinoy celebrates the here and now, in deep affirmation of the givenness of life, full of mystery and so thoroughly awesome. A life of enchantment and meaning is not an escape from the ordinary but an immersion into it. "I am always falling down but I know what I can do. I can lift myself up and say to myself, I'm a great one, too. It doesn't matter if you're big or small. I live now, if I live at all. I am always falling down but I know what I can do." That's a preschool ditty to Old McDonald's tune from my daughter's upbringing. Life fundamentally comes as a dare to choose, courage to care, a celebration of expenditure. At its core is freedom.

It is eternal mindfulness for the Buddhist, observed in the meditative sounds of silence; an artful discipline of gracious forgiveness to the Christian, that says *Amen* to taking on the burden of the world; a profound nod, the inhaling and exhaling of all of life, in the Hindu's all-embracing transcendent and immanent *Om*; of practical practices of balance and harmony, water dance and fireworks in the *yin-yang;* a surrender to the fierce winds of the Muslim's *Anshallah;* grounded in the objective contemplation of sensuous science that lives life in adventure rather than as prescription, a journey of discovery rather than a scheduled destination. We choose to celebrate!

We all create symbols fraught with the meaning of our lives. This Pinoy slithers into the future as a wedgeblade, taking the ordinary stuff of one's life and giving form to that which brings life and pour it out abundantly, in humility, gratitude and compassion. More poetry than prose, we take all that was and say "thanks," all that will be and embrace it with "yes," all that is and with neither scorn nor glee, we "let it be"!

Thomas Wolfe was right: one can never go home again. In our case, we bring home with us. We smile on our way out of Manila. *Paalam, mahal na likha!*

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# PERSPECTIVES

## Union protests are America's Cairo moment

By MICHAEL J. WILSON
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

**WASHINGTON**—The frustration and idealism that poured into the streets of Cairo in early February and eventually changed that nation are finding their counterpoints at state capitals across the United States.

In Egypt, the goal was political freedom; here it's economic justice. Both are necessary for a healthy society. The Egyptian protesters persevered in the face of bullying rhetoric and violence; America's working families can change their nation, too, if they show the same courage and determination.

The immediate instigation for the U.S. protests is the attempt by Republican governors and legislators to pay off their big-money backers by breaking some of the last bastions of secure middle-class American lives: public employment and the unions that represent public workers. Under the guise of budget politics, the GOP is pursuing a core ideological dream of a cheap and docile workforce that ensures high corporate profits and low taxes on the wealthy.

That dream has already been fulfilled in much of the private sector, as evidenced by the stagnant real incomes of most American workers over the past 40 years, the replacement of stable pensions by risky 401(k)'s—sometimes derisively referred to as 201(k)s because of market volatility—and the loss of employer-provided health insurance. Now the corporate-backed Republican Party is turning its firepower on the one exception to this sad tale of crumbling middle-class security: public employment.

That private-sector employees have become more poorly paid, lost benefits and had the risks of retirement shifted to their shoulders at a time when private-sector unions were losing members and influence is no coincidence.

Nor is the fact that public employment has remained stable during a time of increasing public-sector unionization. That's why the GOP has decided public-worker unions must be broken.

One reason that public-sector unions have survived while their private-sector counterparts have struggled is that governments traditionally were less likely to engage in the kind of underhanded tactics routinely engaged in by industry to keep unions out and their workers down.

But now Republican statehouse politicians are fulfilling their promise to bring business practices to government by attempting to destroy their workers' unions, rather than cooperate with them to achieve agreed-upon ends.

Make no mistake, public-employees and their union representatives are always ready to negotiate in good faith over necessary changes in collective-bargaining agreements, offering salary and benefit adjustments as part of an overall plan that addresses revenue as well as spending.

But the Republican governors and legislatures have no interest in negotiation, because their real goal has nothing to do with balancing budgets. They welcome confrontation, believing it's a political battle they can win.

They're wrong. The Republicans are essentially saying to the general public: "We want public workers to be treated just as terribly as everybody else."

That's hardly a winning slogan. Presented with this analogy, the American people are rejecting this race to the bottom, with private-sector workers instead looking at the agreements achieved by their brothers and sisters in the public sector and asking, "Why not us?"

That's why it's not just teachers and home care aides waving signs and chanting slogans at state capitols this late winter—but clerks from Wal-Mart and office assistants from downtown law firms, machinists and bus drivers, students and retirees. They know that the battle to preserve public sector unions is part of a larger struggle.

The question we face as a nation is how much economic and political power we will allow to be collected in fewer and fewer hands.

Child-care programs being gutted while tax cuts for the wealthy are extended is a reliable sign that the process has regressed a good ways already. The protesters outside the capitols—just like the ones in Tahrir Square in Cairo—are saying, "Enough!"

Guess history can be made in the Midwest as well as the Middle East.

*Michael J. Wilson is the national director of Americans for Democratic Action. Readers may write him at ADA, 1625 K Street NW, Suite 102, Washington, D.C. 20006; website: www.adaction.org.*

## It's time to end rigged system

By NICK SCHULZ
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**WASHINGTON**—The governors in Wisconsin and other states trying to reform the system within which public-sector employees negotiate their salaries and benefits are doing the nation a great favor.

At some point the country's political class was going to have face fiscal realities. The governors are the first to do so and for that they deserve deep and abiding support.

Public employee unions are unlike private sector unions. In the private sector some of the interests of employees and employers aren't aligned. Employers want to keep costs low; but employees want to maximize their pay and benefits, thus raising costs to employers. In order to strengthen their hand, employees unite to collectively bargain over wages and benefits.

Now consider the case of public sector unions. Public sector employees want to maximize their wages and benefits, too. But unlike their private sector counterparts, they have a very big role to play in choosing the employers on the other side of the negotiating table. They do this by taking funds earned through collective bargaining and sending them right back to the people they bargain with in the form of political contributions.

If that sounds like a rigged system; well, that's because it is.

Opposing collective bargaining rights for public employees does not make one anti-union. After all, many of the great champions of the American labor movement—including George Meany, the first president of the AFL-CIO—sensibly opposed public sector unions. Franklin Roosevelt, another friend of labor, put it well: "The process of collective bargaining, as usually understood, cannot be transplanted into the public service." But for the past half century it has been transplanted into the public service, and while the results have been great for public employees, they've been a disaster for taxpayers.

Andrew Biggs, my colleague at the American Enterprise Institute, and Jason Richwine of the Heritage Foundation have been researching the total compensation for public employees at the federal and state levels for the last two years. Their results should raise an eyebrow or two.

In California, for example, they found public employees "are compensated up to 30 percent more generously than are similar employees in large private firms." In other words, taxpayers are overpaying relative to the market price for the services they are receiving.

"And the California experience," they say, "is similar to that of other large states with powerful public unions."

You can't blame teachers, cops, firefighters and other public employees for wanting the best deal they can get. They're no different than you and I. To a certain extent, it's impressive they've gamed the system to their advantage as well and as long as they have.

But as the economist Herb Stein once said, "If something cannot go on forever, it will stop." Recognizing the status quo in public employee compensation is untenable, governors are putting a stop to it.

Teachers, cops and firefighters remain popular with the public, and rightfully so. But the American people elected reform-minded governors in part because they knew that while the public employees themselves were wonderful, the system they were operating within had become rotten.

Of course, reforming public employee compensation will only get states so far. Other spending cuts and reforms will be needed as well.

That's all the more reason to reinvent the system of compensation for the politically well-connected unions. It sends an important message that no one is above the required sacrifices and changes.

Public employees do essential work for their communities and the country. They deserve to be compensated fairly and justly. But they do not deserve rights and privileges that the vast majority of Americans don't enjoy.

*Nick Schulz is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Readers may write him at AEI, 1150 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; website: www.aei.org.*

## Where the revolution began

By SUSANNE FISCHER
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

**SIDI BOUZID, Tunisia**—So, this is where it all began.

Before Dec. 18, when Mohamad Bouazizi, 26, set himself on fire to protest his hopeless economic plight, Sidi Bouzid was a sleepy, little-known town in central Tunisia.

But the desperation he felt was so typical of the frustration felt throughout the region that the spark struck in December was enough to ignite protests the following months that not only led to the overthrow of the government of Tunisia and Egypt but also set off a revolution across all North Africa and much of the Arab world.

It is only a three-hour drive to reach Sidi Bouzid from the capital, Tunis, but it feels like a different world. People wear traditional thick brown felt coats to protect them from the harsh wind sweeping off the surrounding plains. Many of the men have turban-like white scarves wrapped around their heads; most of the women wear hijabs.

Like so many other small towns throughout the region, there's a sense that it's been forgotten by the central authorities and that the people have been left to fend for themselves.

A crowd gathers in front of the main government building in stage a protest rally, practically a daily occurrence in towns all across Tunisia these days. President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali may have been deposed and fled the country, but most of the day-to-day problems remain unsolved.

People still don't have jobs; old structures and bureaucracies remain. Getting rid of the legacy of a dictatorship takes time and patience.

In the town square, residents have erected a makeshift memorial honoring Bouazizi. A picture of him hangs from the top of a column overlooking the main street of the town that had so little to offer to him.

Despite a university degree, Bouzizi—like approximately one-third of young, educated Tunisians—was unable to find work. His attempts to make a living by selling vegetables in the street were constantly thwarted by corrupt police who seized his merchandise unless he paid them off.

"Unemployment = humiliation" reads a hand-written piece of paper tacked to the monument.

At a nearby cafe—one of the few that allows men and women to mingle—young men sit around smoking Shisha in hookahs while trying to make a cup of coffee or a Coke last as long as possible as they try to kill another jobless day.

Sitting at one of the tables is Anis Chorabi, who along with four friends started Radio SB Zone, a tiny Internet-based radio station about six years ago.

Chorabi said they decided to start the station "because there was absolutely no news about Sidi Bouzid and the region whatsoever. Even when there was a murder in town, nobody would know about it. We lived in a constant news black-out."

Of course, there were many restrictions under the "ancient regime," which is how people now refer to the presidency of Ben Ali. Politics were taboo, so people mainly talked about cultural and social matters.

When they asked about obtaining a license so that could broadcast using a public frequency, "we were told we could have it if we agreed to fully support the president's ruling party." They decided to remain on the Internet and stay independent.

Today, the station has a network of volunteers who phone in reports whenever anything happens anywhere in the region.

"They know we are really here for them and listen," Anis says.

The revolution, it appears, will indeed be broadcast, at least by an Internet radio station located where it all began.

*Susanne Fischer is Middle East program manager for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.*

## PLEASE

*From Page 6*

which it was, but what did she urge? More "decisive action" by the "international community," which has been largely ineffective so far.

The U.N. Security Council adopted an anti-piracy measure more than two years ago. It created a 28-nation entity to deal with the problem and permitted attacks on the pirates' land bases.

Certainly when Americans are endangered, Washington shouldn't wait for the United Nations to engage in "decisive action." That said, the problem is a knotty one because some authorities believe the pirates could be holding several hundred hostages awaiting ransom at their land bases.

Several nations have warships patrolling the area, but as is usual with U.N. efforts there's little coordination.

Even so, pirate gangs operate at sea from small vessels served by "mother ships." In the case of the slain Americans, the mother ship was believed to be a Yemeni fishing boat.

The Navy would begin sending the right message if it began interdicting suspected pirate vessels and sinking them if they refuse to surrender. Any pirates captured should be held for trial.

The East Africa piracy problem has festered far too long, mainly because the "international community" has chosen to do nothing effective about it—inaction that has endangered the lives of innocent travelers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲86° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° |

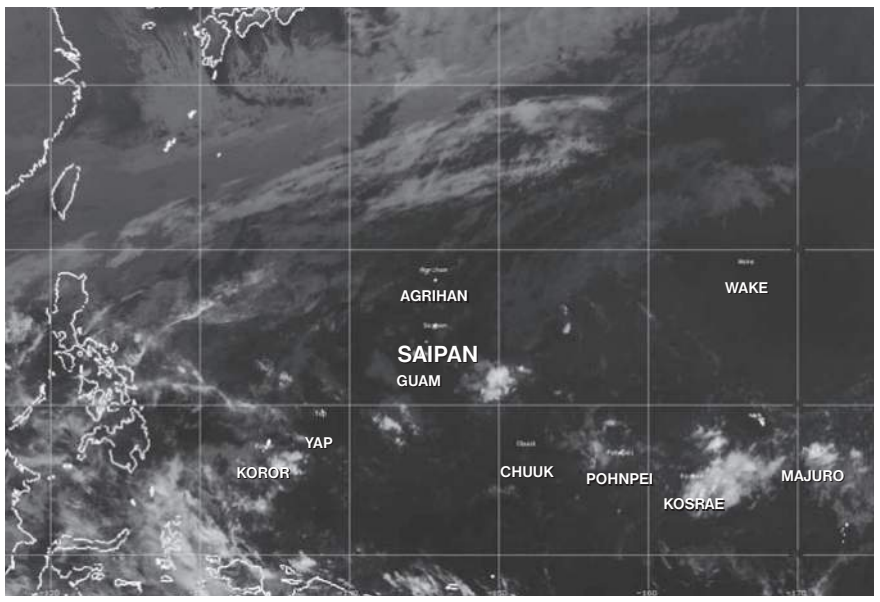
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Rain | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Rain | ▲85 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Rain | ▲82 | ▼76 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲81 | ▼77 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲83 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼63 |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | ▲51 | ▼28 |
| Hong Kong | Showers | ▲69 | ▼64 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲78 | ▼70 |
| London | Mostly Sunny | ▲48 | ▼37 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲72 | ▼51 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼74 |
| Melbourne | Sunny | ▲79 | ▼54 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼66 |
| New York | Cloudy | ▲55 | ▼45 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲54 | ▼43 |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | ▲49 | ▼33 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲50 | ▼39 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲57 | ▼43 |
| Salem | Showers | ▲53 | ▼38 |
| San Francisco | Showers | ▲62 | ▼55 |
| Seoul | Mostly Cloudy | ▲46 | ▼28 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲58 | ▼41 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲60 | ▼51 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from south of Guam near 8N145E through two weak circulations centered north of Chuuk at 10N151E and 14N155E to end near 25N162E. Scattered showers are found near the trough axis within 190 miles of a line from 8N143E to 12N152E to 24N164E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers just south of Koror south of a line from 7N130E to 7N138E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae but over Majuro within 135 miles of a line from 2N152E to 4N165E to 6N171E to 5N180. Scattered showers are found just north of Pohnpei between 7N and 10N from 154E to 163E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:10 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 8:20 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 2:32 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.6 Feet |
| 8:06 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:32 AM | 6:25 PM |
| Sunday | 6:32 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Monday | 6:31 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM | 6:26 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:23 AM | 6:41 PM |
| Sunday | 6:58 AM | 7:27 PM |
| Monday | 7:34 AM | 8:14 PM |
| Tuesday | 8:10 AM | 9:02 PM |
| Wednesday | 8:49 AM | 9:51 PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily |
| CO9313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 6:10am | 8:45am | Daily |
| DL285 | 6:40am | 9:15am | 1, 3, ,4, 5, 6 |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via KIX |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CA988 | 3:15am | 6:55am | 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| CO9317/891 | 4:25am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL285/173 | 6:40am | 10:15pm | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT |
| CO9313/933 | 7:55am | 9:25pm | 3 via GUM |
| CO9313/893 | 7:55am | 11:00pm | 3 via GUM-Palau |
| CO9603/933 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 5 via GUM |
| CO9603/893 | 3:05pm | 11:00pm | 5 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN |
| OZ604/715 | 3:20pm | 11:30pm | 7 |
| CO9605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| CO9599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| CO9603/909 | 3:05pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:35pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| CO9596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:25am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| DL286 | 7:45pm | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7 |
| DL288 | 8:00pm | 12:30am+1 | Daily |

**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ120 | 9:50am | 2:20am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX |
| OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CA987 | 6:40pm | 1:55am+1 | 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ716/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4, 6 via ICN |
| DL172/286 | 8:05am | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| CO890/9606 | 10:55am | 8:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/CO9596 | 10:15pm | 7:25am+1 | 6 via GUM |
| PR110/CO9596 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM |
| CO892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM-Palau |
| CO892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 5 via GUM-Palau |
| CO934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 7 via GUM |
| CO934/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 4 via GUM |
| CO934/9596 | 11:59pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM |
| CO934/9596 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| CO910/9596 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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# SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

## CATHOLIC

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral**
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

**Korean Center**
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

**Kristo Rai Parish**
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

**Santa Soledad Mission Parish**
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

**Saint Jude Parish**
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

**San Antonio Parish**
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

**San Francisco de Borja-Rota**
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

**San Isidro-Rota**
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

**San Jose (Oleai) Parish**
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

**San Roque Parish**
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

**San Vicente Parish**
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

**Santa Remedios**
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

## PROTESTANT

**Born Again Christian**
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

**Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

**Chinese Christian Church of Saipan**
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

**Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan**
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

**Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

**Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

**Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan**
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

**Immanuel United Methodist Church**
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

**Immanuel Methodist Church**
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

**Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan**
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

**Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

**Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

**Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan**
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

**Missions Connection Ministry**
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

**Northern Marianas Christian Church**
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

**Marianas Bible Fellowship Center**
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

**Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)**
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

**Saipan Christian Church**
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

**Saipan Church of Christ**
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

**Saipan Community Church**
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan**
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

**First Baptist Church Koblerville**
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

**Thy Word Ministries Saipan**
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

**Upper Room International Ministries**
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

**Victory Chapel Christian**
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

**VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

# Business

## Oil's surge felt by drivers, travelers, and shoppers

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The recent surge in oil prices is forcing sharp increases in gasoline and other fuels that could cascade throughout the U.S. economy for months to come.

Pump prices, which are already the highest ever for early March, jumped another 4 cents Thursday. The national average is $3.43 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

Airlines, shipping companies and gas station owners were bracing for fuel prices to rise this year, though not this fast. Prices shot up sooner than expected as unrest in the Middle East and Northern Africa brought concerns that supplies could be disrupted from a region that exports a quarter of the world's oil.

The price of oil has risen 21 percent since Feb. 15, when Libyan protestors began clashing with the government. Libya controls the largest oil reserves in Africa. The U.S. imports only a tiny amount of oil from Libya, but it's still affected by the spike in oil.

Americans are now paying 29 cents more for a gallon of gas than when the Libyan crisis started, an increase of about 10 percent. That means an extra $108 million a day goes towards gas instead of other discretionary purchases.

"This just hurts," said Lucina Chavez, whose BMW burns $200 of gasoline per month as she commutes from the suburbs to a job at a nonprofit in Phoenix. Chavez is considering carpooling or moving closer to downtown.

"It would almost be cheaper to get a hotel," she said.

Analyst and trader Stephen Schork said gasoline could rise another 32 cents per gallon this spring and peak as high as $3.80 by summer.

Consumers will feel the pinch beyond the gas pump. Food merchants, airlines, shipping companies and other businesses will likely try to pass along higher costs.

Retail consultant John Haber said online florists, pizza delivery companies, trash collectors, cruise lines and taxi drivers raised rates in 2008 as gasoline and diesel jumped above $4 per gallon. The rise in oil this year "is going to trigger the exact same type of behavior," said Haber, a partner at NPI. Diesel fuel, used by truckers, railroads and cruise ships, is up to $3.78 per gallon.

Already, the impact can be seen at the grocery store, where consumers buy lettuce, onions, strawberries, avocados, eggplant, and other produce shipped from Mexico and California, Haber said.

## UN says food prices hit record high in February

**ROME** (AP)—Global food prices are the highest in 20 years and could increase further because of rising oil prices stemming from the unrest in Libya and the Mideast, a U.N. agency warned Thursday.

Skyrocketing food prices have been among the triggers for protests in Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere, and raised fears of a repeat of the food price crises in 2007 and 2008.

Some experts point to key differences compared to those years: for one, the price of rice, a dominant component of regular diets in many parts of the world, is much lower today. Still, aid group Oxfam called the hike "deeply worrying."

The Food and Agriculture Organization said in a statement that its food price index was up 2.2 percent last month, the highest level since January 1990 when the agency started monitoring prices.

It also was the eighth consecutive month that food prices had risen, the Rome-based agency said. In January, the index had already registered a record peak.

The increase was driven mostly by higher prices of cereals, meat and dairy products, FAO said. Sugar was the only commodity of the groups being monitored whose price hadn't risen.

Global oil prices, which increased on concerns about the potential impact of supply disruptions following unrest in Libya, are a crucial variable.

"Unexpected oil price spikes could further exacerbate an already precarious situation in food markets," said David Hallam, director of FAO's trade and market division. "This adds even more uncertainty concerning the price outlook just as plantings for crops in some of the major growing regions are about to start."

Oil prices affect food markets in many ways, from production to transport costs. When oil prices are high, there is a bigger incentive to produce alternative fuels such as ethanol, which is made from crops such as corn. Increasing demand for alternative fuels made from crops drives up food prices.

"The longer these prices remain high, the more we have to think that it could have a spillover effect into the grain sector, especially in coming weeks and months," said Abdolreza Abbassian, senior grains economist with FAO.

# Nation

# Protesters leave Wis. Capitol after 17-day sit-in

**MADISON, Wis.** (AP)—Pro-union protesters who had been camping out at the Wisconsin Capitol for 17 days vacated the building peacefully late Thursday after a judge ordered the building closed at night but ruled the state was wrong to restrict access to the building during the day.

With a group hug, and singing "Solidarity Forever," about 50 protesters grabbed their sleeping bags, pillows and drums and left through two rows of Democratic state lawmakers and others who thanked them for their efforts.

Police confirmed that all of the protesters had departed, and that there had been no arrests.

The peaceful departure came after two hours of back-and-forth exchanges between the police and demonstrators, who demanded to see the court order saying they had to leave.

AP

Protesters celebrate before they walked outside of the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., Thursday, March 3, 2011, after a judge ordered the Department of Administration to open the Capitol to normal business hours starting Monday, March 7, 2011.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Chief Susan Riseling read the order to the crowd, eliciting cheers when she read the judge's determination that the state had unconstitutionally restricted the public's access to the building. The Department of Administration, which operates the building, this week began restricting the number of protesters allowed in at any time.

It was the part of the judge's order saying protesters had to leave on Thursday night that caused consternation among the group. Former Attorney General Peggy Lautenschlager, who challenged the state's decision to limit building access, told them, "We won this battle."

But she also told the crowd they needed to leave.

Capitol Police Chief Charles Tubbs repeatedly urged the crowd to leave peacefully.

"I don't want to see anybody arrested," he said.

Ultimately, the protesters left without incident. At least one of them was still in a Capitol hallway after the others had departed as police scoured the building to look for stragglers.

"We decided we didn't want to stoop to the level of Scotty and his minions. We decided it would be best for our image to leave tonight peacefully and come back tomorrow," said Matt Rowe, 21, of Madison, carrying an armful of blankets after he left the building.

Protesters have been demonstrating in and around the Capitol building since Feb. 15 against a bill pushed by the state's new Republican governor, Scott Walker, that would strip most public employees of nearly all of their collective bargaining rights.

Walker contends that the legislation, which also calls for the public employees to cover more of the costs of their pension and health plans, is necessary to balance the state's budget and to give local municipalities the flexibility they need to deal with pending budget cuts.

Unions and Democrats say the bill is a blatant attempt to weaken the unions, which are an important part of the Democratic Party's power base.

The bill passed in the state Assembly but stalled in the state Senate because all 14 Democratic members skipped town two weeks ago, deny their Republican colleagues the quorum they need to vote on the issue.

## Obama, Calderon pledge cooperation on drug wars

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Seeking to repair damaged relations, President Barack Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon agreed Thursday to deepen their cooperation in combating drug violence and declared a breakthrough in efforts to end a long-standing dispute over cross-border trucking.

During a joint news conference at the White House, Obama praised Calderon for his "extraordinary courage" in fighting the violent drug cartels that have been responsible for deaths on both sides of the border. Obama pledged to speed up U.S. aid to train and equip Mexican forces to help in those efforts, but he also acknowledged that the U.S. must stem the flow of cash and guns to Mexico that have aided the cartels.

"We are very mindful that the battle President Calderon is fighting inside of Mexico is not just his battle, it's also ours," Obama said. "We have to take responsibility just as he's taken responsibility."

Calderon's visit comes three weeks after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent Jaime Zapata was shot to death in northern Mexico with a gun smuggled in from the U.S. The incident raised questions in the U.S. about Mexico's ability to control violence and has Obama administration officials considering arming U.S. agents working across the border to ensure their safety.

Mexican law bans foreign law enforcement agents working in the country from bearing arms, and Calderon vehemently expressed his opposition to making an exception for U.S. personnel. But he said Zapata's death showed a need to consider alternative methods for protecting agents.

"His death must urge us to work together to ensure a prosperous and peaceful future for our region," Calderon said.

Obama said the U.S. is seeking extradition of several suspects arrested in Mexico in connection with Zapata's death.

Tensions between the North American allies were already heightened ahead of Zapata's death. Secret State Department cables released last year revealed a grim assessment by U.S. officials of Mexico's ability to fight drug cartels, saying the country has limited intelligence-gathering capacity and quoting Calderon as saying politicians could be tempted to return to a tacit policy of tolerating the gangs.

In a show of confidence in Calderon's efforts, the Obama administration said it would continue to send aid to support Mexico in the drug war. A senior administration official said the U.S. plans to speed up implementation of the $1.4 billion Merida Initiative, with $900 million to be doled out by the end of the year. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, was not authorized to speak publicly about the agreement.

Stephen Johnson, director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that given the breadth of the U.S-Mexico relationship, it was critical that Obama and Calderon meet before tensions escalated further.

"There are junctures like this where leaders have to get together and work through any misunderstanding that there might be, and then agree ways on ways to move forward," Johnson said.

Eager to show signs of a productive partnership, Obama and Calderon agreed to a phased-in plan that would authorize both Mexican and U.S. long-haul carriers to engage in cross-border operations provided the Mexican trucks meet U.S. safety standards. Both countries were given this authority under the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, but the U.S. has refused to allow Mexican trucks access amid concerns over their ability to meet stringent U.S. safety and environmental standards.

## Years after vanishing in Iran, US man proven alive

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Four years after a retired FBI agent mysteriously vanished inside Iran, U.S. officials have received irrefutable proof he is alive, a dramatic development that has sharply intensified diplomatic efforts to bring him home, The Associated Press has learned.

The U.S. had lacked reliable information about whether Robert Levinson was alive or dead since he disappeared in March 2007 from the Iranian island of Kish. It remains unclear who exactly is holding Levinson or where he is, but the proof that he is alive is a hopeful sign in a case that had seemingly gone cold.

Levinson

The State Department issued a three-sentence statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton Thursday saying there were indications Levinson was in southwest Asia and asking Iran for help. The AP has learned fuller details after a lengthy investigation into Levinson's disappearance and the effort to get him back to the U.S.

Iran has repeatedly said it has no information about Levinson, but U.S. diplomats and investigators have long said they believed he was taken by Iranian government agents.

As years passed, many in the U.S. government believed the 63-year-old with diabetes and high blood pressure might have died. But late last year, Levinson's family received proof that he was alive. Investigators confirmed its authenticity and that it was recent, current and former officials said. Officials say they believe he is still alive.

"It has been almost four years since I have seen my beloved husband Robert Levinson," his wife, Christine, said in a statement on the family's website. "Our family is tremendously encouraged by the news Bob is alive but remains concerned for his safety and well being."

Reporters were turned away from Levinson's gated community in Coral Springs, Fla., after someone from his home told guards not to let journalists in. A neighbor, Luanne Wallice, said she'd been praying for the family.

"I am just so excited. I hope it's true," Wallice said.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Colo. boy, 12, faces charges in parents' killings

**BURLINGTON, Colo.** (AP)—A 12-year-old boy accused of killing his parents and wounding two of his younger siblings is a "good kid" who is active in his church, often volunteering to hand out bulletins, work audio and video equipment and help other children learn Bible verses, friends and relatives said. The boy is suspected of fatally shooting his parents and wounding his 5-year-old sister and 9-year-old brother Tuesday evening at the family's home in Burlington, near the Kansas border. Police say they discovered the attacks after the boy called 911 to report a shooting.

### Man questioned in deaths of kids found in canal

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Police said they were questioning a suspect Thursday in the deaths of two children whose bodies were stuffed into luggage and dumped into a canal. Delray Beach Sgt. Nicole Guerriero said they were talking to Clem Beauchamp. She did not release his age. Neighbors say he lives in a house that police had cordoned off Thursday. She said he has not been arrested or charged. It was not immediately known if Beuchamp has a lawyer. Investigators say they have tentatively identified the children as siblings but have not released their names or if Beauchamp is related to them. They have said the girl was between 6 and 10 years old and the boy between 10 and 12.

### Navy admiral recommends censures over lewd videos

**NORFOLK, Va.** (AP)—A Navy admiral on Thursday recommended letter of censure for an officer who produced and broadcast raunchy videos to thousands of sailors aboard the USS Enterprise. The head of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Adm. John Harvey Jr., also recommended that Capt. Owen P. Honors Jr. should have to show cause for why he should remain in the Navy. Honors was the aircraft carrier's No. 2 officer when he helped produce and appeared in the series of videos that aired between 2005 and 2007 on the ship's closed-circuit TV station during weekly movie nights. He was relieved of command this January after Navy leaders learned about the videos from media reports.

# Asia

## Search for bodies slows in New Zealand quake

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—The search for bodies has ended at one of the buildings worst hit by last week's earthquake in New Zealand, while the confirmed death toll has edged higher to 163, police said Friday.

Authorities declared search and rescue operations in the stricken city of Christchurch to be over Thursday, saying there was no chance that anyone else would be pulled alive from the rubble of the Feb. 22 quake.

They say the job now is to recover bodies still jammed in the wreckage of broken buildings and to clean up and restore the downtown area of the city of 350,000 people that has been shut down by the disaster.

Police Superintendent Sam Hoyle said Friday that two more bodies had been pulled overnight from the Pyne Gould Guinness building, taking the confirmed death toll to 163. He said the search for bodies was now over at that building, one of two office blocks that completely collapsed in the disaster.

Many more people are missing and officials expect the final number of dead to be more than 200.

Body recovery teams were still picking through the rubble of the other office block, the Canterbury Television building, but the operation was also nearing an end there, Hoyle said.

Teams were also working at the city's iconic cathedral, where up to 22 people were believed to have been caught in the church's spire tower when it collapse in the quake. Workers had been prevented from starting work at the church for days because the site was so unstable. It was braced in recent days.

Meanwhile, Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said an estimated 70,000 Christchurch residents—one-fifth of the population—had left the city since the quake, which cut power, water and sewage systems for large parts of the city. Most were expected to return as the city recovers.

Police have named seven more people who died in the disaster, including a Thai national.

Just 20 of the 163 bodies have been publicly identified. Authorities say the identification process is slow and painstaking because of the extreme nature of the injuries caused to some of those caught in collapsing buildings.

## 4 NKoreans to resettle in South, 27 to return home

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Four of the 31 North Koreans held after their boat strayed into South Korean waters have asked to stay in the South, officials said, a move likely to draw an angry response from Pyongyang.

South Korea planned to repatriate the other 27 North Koreans and their boat to the North on Friday, the Red Cross said in a statement.

The 31 North Koreans were aboard a small fishing motorboat that drifted across the Koreas' western sea border about one month ago. The North said the people were gathering shellfish when they were surrounded by dense fog.

North Korea's Red Cross Society said in a statement late Thursday that the South should immediately return all the North Koreans. It said they had "clearly expressed their intention to go back to" the North from the day of their detention. The North also said that Seoul had pressured the North Koreans "to remain in South Korea by appeasement, deception and threat," which the North called a "grave provocation."

More than 20,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, most through China, since the end of the Korean War in 1953, with defections surging in recent years amid economical hardship in the North. South Korean policy is to accept those who choose to defect and to repatriate those who wish to return home.

Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea analyst at Seoul's Dongguk University, said the North's criticism of the South isn't expected to seriously hurt ties between the two Koreas because it's not the first time South Korea has accepted North Korean asylum-seekers.

North Korea has been enraged since Monday's start of annual South Korea-U.S. drills. Pyongyang calls them a rehearsal for invasion.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### SKorean coast guard confronts Chinese fishing boat

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea's coast guard says a Chinese fisherman and a South Korean coast guard officer are being treated at a hospital after a confrontation off South Korea's west coast over illegal fishing. The coast guard said Friday that it detained a Chinese fishing boat Thursday afternoon within South Korea's exclusive economic zone in the Yellow Sea. Officials say the Chinese crew wielded axes and hammers when the coast guard tried to inspect the boat, injuring one South Korean officer. The South Koreans opened fire, injuring a Chinese crewman in the thigh.

#### Pakistani Christians protest after slaying

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Pakistani Christians burned tires and rallied for justice Thursday, a day after Islamist militants assassinated a Catholic government minister who had braved death threats to speak out in their defense. The government, which has been accused of appeasing hard-liners, vowed to tackle the threat, but officials routinely make such promises after high-profile attacks and questions remain over its will to counter militants once supported by the state. Shahbaz Bhatti, 42, was gunned down in the capital, Islamabad, apparently because he had urged Pakistan to reform harsh laws that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam. He had been given police and paramilitary guards but had asked them not to accompany him while he stayed with his mother, according to police.

#### China reports rise in foreign students

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's Ministry of Education is reporting that the number of foreign students in the country reached a record high of more than 260,000 in 2010. Statistics from the ministry carried by the official China Daily on Friday showed that 265,090 students from 194 countries are studying in China. That is a jump of 8 percent from the 240,000 students in 2009. South Korea sent the largest number of students, followed by the United States, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. The paper gave no exact breakdown. The ministry says it has a goal of bringing half a million foreign students to China by 2020.

#### Vietnam protests Chinese military drills

**HANOI, Vietnam** (AP)—Vietnam has protested Chinese military drills in a group of islands that both countries claim, calling them a violation of its sovereignty. Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted late Thursday on its website that China's navy conducted counter-piracy drills in the Spratly island archipelago in the South China Sea a week earlier. The ministry says its representatives met with Chinese embassy officials on Wednesday to lodge a protest. Vietnam's ministry says China's actions violated Vietnamese sovereignty. It says it asked China to refrain from activities that would further complicate the competing claims to the islands. The Spratlys are also claimed by other Asian nations and believed to be sitting atop vast oil and gas reserves.

# World

## Rebels reinforce key Libyan oil port in east

**BREGA, Libya** (AP)—Rebels reinforced a key oil port Thursday while facing new regime airstrikes in eastern Libya, and thousands of angry mourners buried victims of a counteroffensive by Moammar Gadhafi's forces, shooting guns in the air, shouting "Down with Gadhafi!" and swearing to take vengeance.

Although there have been stirrings of a diplomatic effort to ease the crisis, an opposition spokesman flatly ruled out any negotiations with Gadhafi, saying "his hands are tainted with blood."

■■■

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi supports a plan proposed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to help mediate a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Libya, a Venezuelan official said Thursday.**

**Information Minister Andres Izarra said on Twitter that Venezuela's foreign minister, Nicolas Maduro, spoke with his Libyan counterpart, who in Gadhafi's name confirmed his government's support for the peace initiative proposed by Chavez.**

**"Libya's official acceptance of Chavez's peace proposal is news that we believe raises hopes for the possibility of a negotiated and peaceful way out of the conflict," Izarra told The Associated Press in a response to e-mailed questions.**

**However, other countries ranging from the United States to Italy dismissed Chavez's proposal as the wrong approach. And Gadhafi's opponents have shown no openness to talks as long as he remains in power.**

■■■

President Barack Obama insisted that Gadhafi leave office, declaring he had "lost the legitimacy to lead."

He pledged to hold Gadhafi and his loyalists accountable, saying the U.S. and the entire world were outraged by violence against the rebels, and he lauded U.N. sanctions meant to put international pressure on the longtime ruler.

Signaling he was digging in, Gadhafi's regime apparently has stepped up its recruitment of mercenaries from other African countries, with an official in neighboring Mali saying that 200-300 men have left for Libya in the last week.

The International Criminal Court in the Netherlands said it will investigate Gadhafi, his sons and his inner circle for possible crimes against humanity in the violent crackdown of the 17-day-old uprising that sought to topple the man who has ruled Libya for four decades.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the court's top prosecutor, said Gadhafi and several commanders and regime officials had formal or de facto control over forces that attacked protesters, and he promised "no impunity in Libya."

Army units that have joined the rebels fanned out in the oil facilities and port at Brega, armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and dressed in camouflage army uniforms with checkered keffiyehs. They were backed by at least a dozen pickup trucks with mounted machine guns or towing rocket launchers.

Government warplanes launched a new airstrike on the town Thursday morning, according to witnesses. It was not clear what they targeted, but it was likely an airstrip of the huge oil complex on the Mediterranean coast.

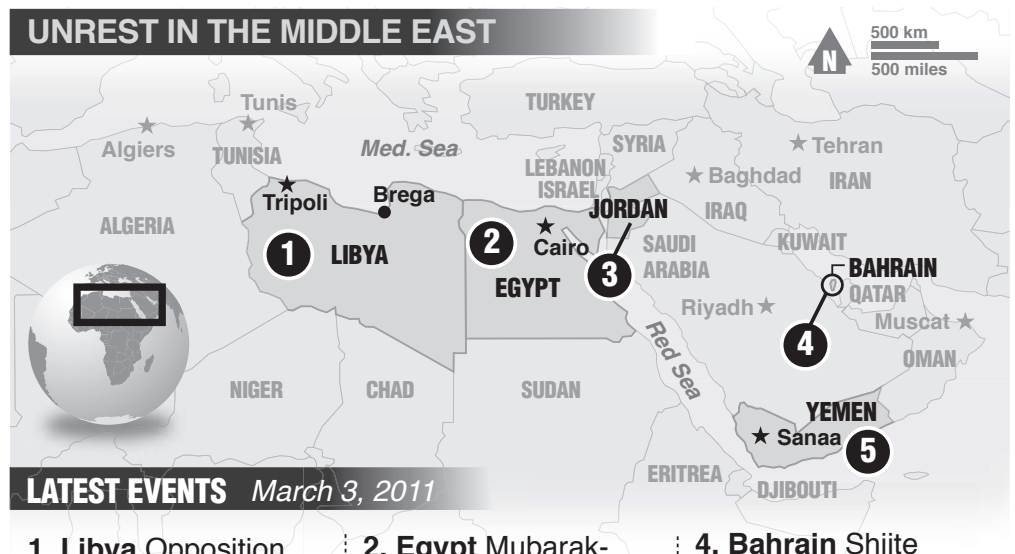
No casualties were reported, and pro-Gadhafi forces withdrew 80 miles (130 kilometers) to the west to another oil port, Ras Lanouf, after their defeat Wednesday by citizen militias from nearby towns and cities.

Despite having little central organization or command, the anti-Gadhafi fighters were able to repel a force of several hundred regime troops that attacked after dawn.

"We are in a position to control the area and we are deploying our forces," a rebel officer in Brega told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

At least 14 rebel fighters were killed in Wednesday's battle, including Abdul-Salaam Senoussi, whose father, Mohammed, came to Brega to claim his body.

"You know, this is my son," the grieving father said softly after identifying the body. He made a gesture like a pistol and said: "They shot him by plane."



# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 5, 2011


# Outgoing UFO prexy has high hopes for group's new leaders

## » Tells of challenges, best part of being an officer


By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Outgoing United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana is seen here at her desk at the Yana Law Office in Susupe, Saipan.

It's been almost 14 years now that the United Filipino Organization has been in existence and Olive Yana has been around for about 11 of them.

Yana, outgoing two-term president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, joined the group in 2000 at the urgings of her colleague in the Visayas Mindanao Association where she served as the organization's secretary.

After becoming a member, Yana recounted how former labor representative Araceli Maraya also approached her and invited her to join the Marianas Filipino Women's Association where she was elected secretary as well.

Additionally, Yana also became affiliated with the Saipan Association of Filipino Skilled Workers, where she took on the role of president.

"My life on Saipan was focused on work and home that I had to find ways to deal with homesickness. Being a part of all these groups helped fill my time and got me occupied after office hours," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

A native of Cagayan de Oro, Yana graduated with a degree in Commerce major in Accounting from Ateneo de Cagayan. She first arrived on Saipan in July 1991 after her three-year stint with an electric company back in her hometown.

Since joining the group, Yana became the longest serving secretary of the UFO from 2000 to 2008, before finally relenting to her colleagues' request to accept and run for the highest position in the organization.

Yana disclosed how she did not want to accept the challenge initially as she was well aware of the tremendous responsibilities that go hand in hand with being the president of a large group.

"As a leader of an organization, you will be responsible for a lot of things. One should be ready," she emphasized.

It was her colleagues, Yana said, who made her realize that she was ready and prepared for the daunting task. She has been a part of the UFO family and served as the secretary long enough to know the group's inner workings.

"The only difference was that when I was the secretary, I was doing the work behind the scenes. When I became the president, I became the group's front liner," added Yana.

According to Yana, the challenges during her two terms were quite overwhelming because of the economic situation of the CNMI.

"It became difficult for us to obtain sponsors for our activities and events because everyone was experiencing the financial crunch," she disclosed.

Fortunately, Yana said they were able to cope. "Despite the situation, we still found willing sponsors like Jerry Tan who pledged and supported our big events. Somehow, my term ended on a high note."

Yana believes that having a strong faith as a group was also beneficial for them. "We as a group became a lot more involved with the church during our term. If we didn't, I don't think we'll accomplish what we had."

Yana also credited both officers and members for the group's successes during her tenure.

"I'm very grateful to all of them because I've seen their enthusiasm to help. They're always present during our events. We were solid as a group. We had teamwork. We would bond after every activity. We enjoy being together. The bonding was clearly there," she recalled fondly.

Asked if she had anything she regretted not doing during her term, Yana said no.

"Every time I do something, I always do my best. I have no regrets at all. I made the most of whatever resources and time given to me," she said. "I'm also satisfied that I was able to accomplish my pet project, which was the leadership seminar in January."

Yana expressed hope and confidence in the newly elected officers of the organization who would be officially inducted within the month.

"All organizations are well represented in the new set of officers. I'm pleased that we were able to give a chance to those who have the potential to lead the group," she said.

Yana, who was elected as the group's adviser, said she is happy to be back working behind the scenes and just assisting the new batch of officers.

"I'm really happy knowing that I will be part of these promising officers. The torch has been passed. It's their time to shine," she added.

# Free health screening on Sunday


By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER


The Philippine Consulate General office on Saipan will conduct tomorrow a free health screening for Filipino workers on Saipan for the first quarter of 2011.

The free health screening is slated for March 6 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Registration starts at 7am and the screening is from 8am to 12pm. Medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and eye-vision check-ups.

Those who will avail of the blood sugar check-up should refrain from taking solid and liquid food from 12 midnight to the time of actual testing.

The free health screening program is a collaboration of the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, the CNMI Pharmacists Association, and the Hardt Eye Clinic.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said the health screening program aims to increase the level of awareness on diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, and eye/vision pressure correction among Filipino workers on island.

"Through this project, the Philippine Consulate General hopes to reach more and serve even if in a modest way, the medical needs, while fostering the spirit of volunteerism in the true spirit of Filipino *bayanihan* in Saipan," he said.

During the health screening, Macaraig said Filipinos may also apply for ePassports. For information about requirements, visit www.philippines-saipan.org.

# PH named among 'most promising' countries

## » Citigroup notes potential high growth rate


By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


**MANILA, Philippines**—Global banking giant Citigroup has identified the Philippines as one of 11 countries that will likely stand out in a globally integrated economy in terms of high growth rates and investment returns over the next 40 years.

Citi, in a global economic research dated Feb. 21 titled "Global Growth Generators (3G)," introduced the concept of 3G to refer to countries, regions, cities, trade corridors, sectors, industries, firms, technologies, products and asset classes that over the next five, 10, 20 and 40 years could deliver high growth and profitable investment opportunities.

The 3G index takes into account several components including domestic saving investment, demographic prospects, health, education, quality of institutions and policies and trade openness.

The countries that scored highest in the 3G index in terms of growth potential are Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In the research written by Citi global economists Willem Buiter and Ebrahim Rahbari, Vietnam had the highest index score at 0.86, followed by China (0.81), India (0.71), Indonesia (0.70), Mongolia (0.63) and the Philippines (0.60).

The study projected a 5.5 percent annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the Philippines between 2010 and 2050. At $3,684, or 8.3 percent of the US level, the Philippines' level of real GDP per capita puts it in 52nd place in its sample.

The country's population was projected to grow from 93.6 million in 2010 to 146.2 million in 2050. Its population of working age is also projected to grow by 66.2 percent over that period.

The Citi research also noted that the Philippines' reported investment rate was "unbelievably" low at 14.5 percent of GDP for the period 2006-2009.

The Philippines scored "quite well" on the 3G index with a value of 0.60, the research added.

# St. Lorenzo Ruiz enthroned at Mount Carmel


By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER


The Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa was packed with Filipinos and other Catholic faithful who took part and witnessed the historic enthronement of San Lorenzo Ruiz last Feb. 27.

The image of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint and martyr, was enthroned at the cathedral during the 11am Mass.

Also known as San Lorenzo de Manila, San Lorenzo Ruiz was a layman who was executed along with 15 other companions after refusing to renounce his faith.

San Lorenzo Ruiz was beatified in Manila by Pope John Paul II during his papal visit to Manila on Feb. 19, 1981. He was later canonized on Oct. 18, 1987.

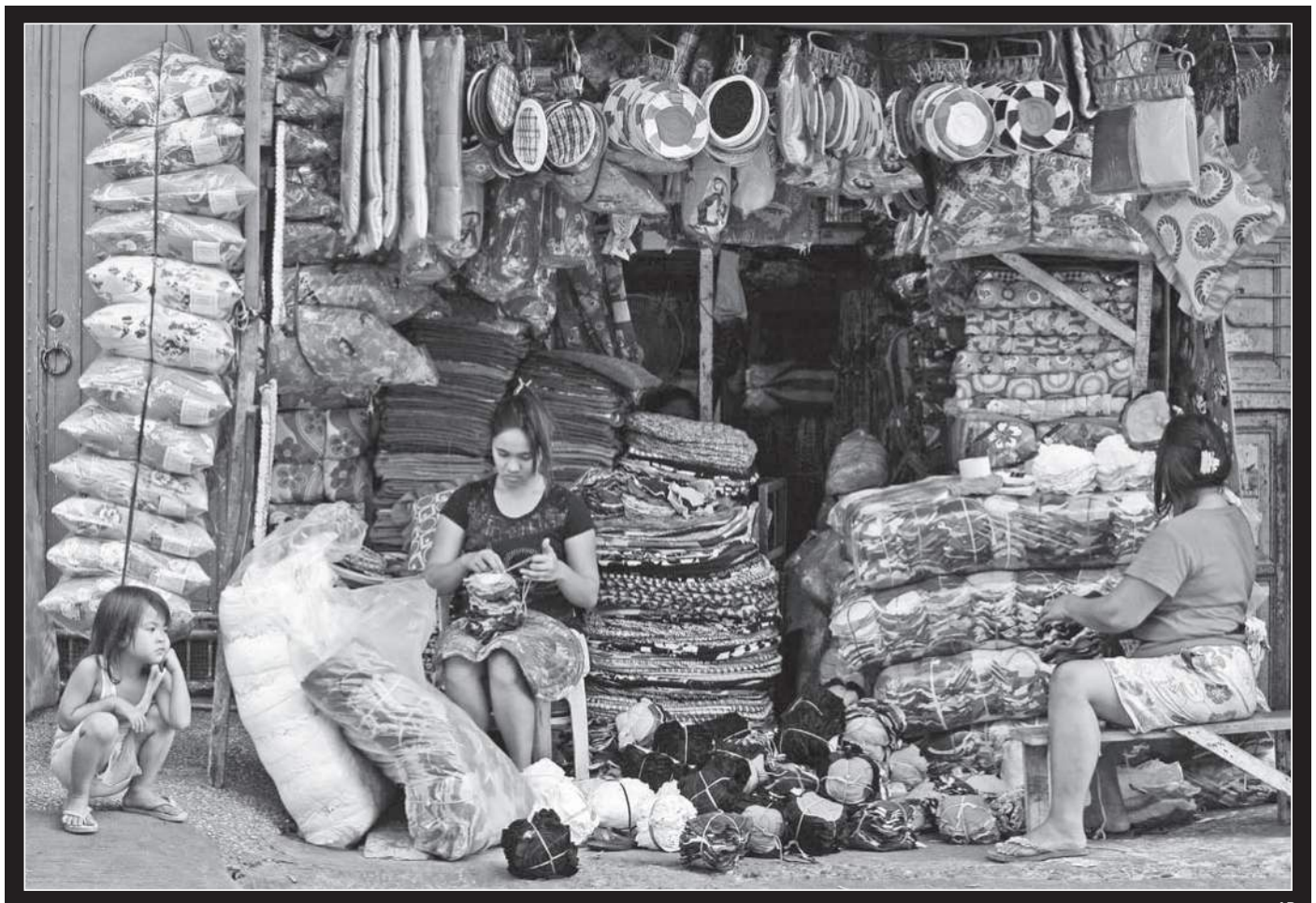
The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines also proclaimed San Lorenzo Ruiz as the patron saint of overseas Filipino workers, Filipino migrants, the youth, and the poor.

The ceremony began with a procession led by children dressed in San Lorenzo Ruiz shirts, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Apostolic Administrator Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr. who delivered the homily, and other priests who concelebrated the Mass.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, wife Teresa Roselyn Macaraig, and members of Saipan Simbang Gabi Group did the offertory of white roses, bread and wine, and other offerings.

The Mass ended with the singing of the *Hymn to San Lorenzo Ruiz* composed by a Jesuit priest and arranged by Vir Abueme of the Saipan Simbang Gabi Group followed by a festive luncheon at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall Diocesan Curia.

# Overseas Filipinos sent home a record $18.8B in 2010



AP

**HARD TIMES**
A Filipino girl sits beside women workers as they bundle assorted rags in suburban Manila, Philippines on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. The rags made of textile scraps are popular among Filipinos who hunt bargains and cheaper goods to cope with the hard times.

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Remittances grew faster than expected in 2010 to post an all-time high as the recovery of the global economy from the recent turmoil led to growth in job opportunities abroad for Filipinos.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on Monday reported that remittances from Filipinos based overseas reached $18.76 billion last year, the highest ever recorded by the country.

It was an 8.2-percent growth from the $17.07 billion registered in 2009 and exceeded the government's forecast of 8 percent.

In December alone, remittances amounted to $1.69 billion, rising 8.1 percent from $1.57 billion in the same month of the previous year.

The BSP said the robust growth in remittances, which fuel local consumption, partly aided the economy's sharp rebound last year from the slowdown in 2009.

"The stable flow of remittances continued to provide strong support to domestic demand, with the remittance level for the year accounting for close to 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product [GDP]," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

GDP grew 7.3 percent in 2010, the fastest pace in about three decades.

Remittances largely came from Filipinos based in the United States, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany and Norway.

The increasing number of job markets, as well as the expanding network of remittance centers serving Filipino workers, should be credited for boosting the amount of money sent by Filipinos to their families and other recipients in the Philippines.

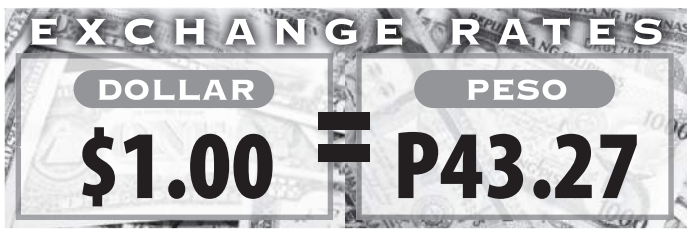
"The continuing innovation of financial products and services [such as web-based remittance services and cash cards] being offered in the market to facilitate money transfer have likewise contributed to the resilience of remittances throughout the year," Tetangco said.

The BSP said that as of end-2010, there were 4,581 remittance centers, banks and other offices all over the world serving the remittance needs of Filipinos. This was up from 3,730 registered as of end-2009.

Citing documents from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the central bank further reported that 46,238 job orders for Filipino workers by foreign employers were processed and approved last year. There are an estimated 10 million Filipino workers abroad.

While the growth in remittances has a positive impact on the economy in the form of increased consumption by recipients, it reflects the view of many Filipinos that job opportunities in the country are lacking.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that the unemployment rate in the country stood at 7.1 percent in October 2010, just the same as that in the same period of the previous year.




# E-2 Visa: CNMI-Lang Namumuhunan (CNMI-only investor visa)

## » Paano kumuha ng E-2 CNMI Pamumuhunang Kalagayan (E2C)

Ang CNMI-Lang Namumuhunan (E-2) na klasipikasyon ng visa ay nagpapahintulot sa mga banyagang, pangpatagalang-panahon na mga namumuhunan na legal na manatili sa CNMI hanggang Disyembre 2014 habang nireresolba nila ang kanilang istado sa imigrasyon. Ang klasipikasyong ito ay nilayon upang makatulong habang ang CNMI ay lumilipat mula sa CNMI permit na sistema papuntang mga batas ng U.S. sa imigrasyon.

**Inisyal na Aplikasyon**

Dapat mong i-pasa ang iyong inisyal na Form I-129 na petisyon at Suplementong E sa USCIS bago mag Enero 18, 2013. Tatanggihan ng USCIS ang mga inisyal na petisyon na nai-pasa makalipas ang petsang iyon.

**Tagal ng Pananatili**

Ang iyong E-2 CNMI namumuhunang kalagayan ay inisyal na balido sa CNMI nang dalawang taon. Kung mayroon kang asawa o menor-de-edad na mga anak na kasama mo o susunod upang samahan ka sa CNMI, magkakaroon sila ng parehong panahon ng pagkabalido mo. Ang E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunang kalagayan ay mapapahaba nang 2 taong mga pagdagdag at magtatapos sa Disyembre 31, 2014.

**Pagpapahaba ng Iyong Pananatili**

Upang magpatala para sa pagpapalawig ng iyong pananatili, kailangan kang mag-file ng bagong Form I-129 at Suplemento E kasama ang kailangang ebidensiya at bayad.

**Mga indibiduwal sa CNMI na naghahangad ng inisyal na Pagkakaloob ng Kalagayan sa CNMI**

May karagdagang gabay na dapat mong sundan kung humihiling ka ng inisyal na pagkakaloob ng hindi migranteng kalagayan sa CNMI. Para sa higit pang importmasyon, pakibisita ang webpage ng pagkakaloob ng kalagayan.

**Pangkalahatang Mga Kwalipikasyon para sa E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunan**

Upang maging kwalipikado para sa E-2 CNMI Namumuhunang kalagayan, dapat ikaw ay:

■ Natanggap sa CNMI na may pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang visa sa ilalim ng batas imigrasyon ng CNMI bago ang Nobyembre 28, 2009;

■ Patuloy na nanatiling residente sa CNMI sa ilalim ng pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kalagayan;

■ Sa kasalukuyan ay nagpapanatili ng (mga) puhunan na bumuo ng basehan para sa CNMI pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunang kalagayan sa halip ay pahintulutan na pumasok sa Estados Unidos sa ilalim ng batas ng U.S. sa Imigrasyon at Pagkamamamayan (U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act) (INA).

**Mga Kalagayan ng Namumuhunan ng CNMI na Kwalipikado para sa E2C na Kalagayan**

Kwalipikado ka para sa E-2 CNMI na Namumuhunang kalagayan kung nagkaroon ka ng isa sa sumusunod na pangmatagalang panahon na CNMI na namumuhunang kalagayan sa ilalim ng batas Imigrasyon ng CNMI:

■ Isang pangmatagalang-panahon na namumuhunan sa negosyo na nabigyan ng pangmatagalang-panahon ng sertipiko ng negosyo ng CNMI batay sa puhunang hindi bababa sa $50,000;

■ Isang banyagang namumuhunan na may banyagang puhunang sertipiko na binigay ng CNMI batay sa puhunang hindi bababa sa $100,000 sa isang pinagsamang aprubadong puhunan na lagpas sa $2 milyon o hindi bababa sa $250,000 sa isang aprubadong puhunan;

■ Isang retiradong namumuhunan na mas matanda sa edad 55 taong gulang na binigyan ng sertipiko para sa banyagang retiradong namumuhunan batay sa kwalipikadong puhunan sa isang aprubadong residensiya sa CNMI (ngunit hindi kasama ang 2-taong hindi -renewable na programang pamumuhunan ng retirado na limitado sa mga mamamayang Hapon)

**Mga Namumuhunang Kalagayan na Hindi Kwalipikado para sa E-2 na Kalagayan**

Hindi ka karapat-dapat para sa isang E2C visa kung nagkaroon ka ng isa sa sumusunod na mga kalagayang namumuhunan ng CNMI sa ilalim ng batas ng Imigrasyon ng CNMI:

■ Ang sub-category ng retiradong namumuhunan na partikular na limitado sa mga retiradong Hapon

■ Pang-maikling panahon na mga pahintulot sa pagpasok sa negosyo

■ Pang-regular na panahon na mga pahintulot sa pagpasok sa negosyo

**Mga Kinakailangan Ebidensiya**

Lahat ng dokumentasyong dati nang naisumite sa bawat aplikasyon ng namumuhunan sa gobyerno ng CNMI ay dapat isumite bilang bahagi ng bawat E-2 CNMI na petisyon sa Namumuhunan sa USCIS.

**Lahat ng Mga Indibiduwal**

Lahat ng mga indibiduwal ay dapat magbigay ng sumusunod na ebidensiya ng pagpasok sa CNMI sa kalagayang pangmatagalang panahon na namumuhunan bago ang Nobyembre 28, 2009, na binubuo ng:

■ Isang balidong hindi pasong banyagang pasaporte

■ Isang tama ang pagka-endorsong CNMI na dokumento sa pagpasok (hal., pahintulot sa pagpasok, sertipiko sa pagpasok, o bisa ng banyagang namumuhunan) na sumasalamin sa ayon sa batas na pagpasok sa CNMI sa kalagayang pangmatagalang-panahong namumuhunan sa negosyo, banyagang namumuhunan, o retiradong banyagang namumuhunan

■ Isang di-pasong Sertipiko sa Pangmatagalang-Panahon na Negosyo, Sertipiko ng Banyagang Puhunan o Sertipiko ng Banyagang Retiradong Namumuhunan

**Mga Indibiduwal na may isang ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa pagpasok ng banyagang namumuhunan o pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyong pangmatagalangpanahon**

Ang aplikante na may ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa pagpasok ng banyagang namumuhunan o pahintulot sa pagpasok ng negosyong pangmatagalang-panahon ay kailangang magsumite ng ebidensiya na magpapakitang siya ay nagpanatili ng kanyang puhunan sa E-2 CNMI petisyon ng Namumuhunan. Kasama sa ebidensiyang ito ang sumusunod, kung angkop:

■ Isang liham ng pag-apruba na inilaan ng gobyerno ng CNMI;

■ Ebidensiya na ang kapital ay naipuhunan, katulad ng mga statement ng bangko, mga resibo o mga kontrata para sa mga ari-ariang binili, mga talaan ng transaksiyon sa pagbili ng stock, utang o ibang mga kasunduan sa paghiram, mga upa sa lupa, mga pinansiyal na statement, mga resibo sa kabuuang buwis ng negosyo, o ibang mga kasunduan na sumusuporta sa aplikasyon;

■ Ebidensiya na ang aplikante ay namuhunan ng pinakamababang kailangang halaga, katulad ng ebidensiya ng mga biniling pag-aari o pag-aaring nilipat mula sa ibayong dagat para magamit sa negosyo, ebidensiya ng perang nalipat o naipangako sa bago o umiiral na negosyo kapalit ng mga hati ng stock, anumang utang o pagkakasanla, pangakong sulat, kasunduan sa seguridad o ibang ebidensiya ng paghiram na nakaseguro ng mga pag-aari ng aplikante;

■ Isang komprehensibang plano ng negosyo para sa mga bagong negosyo;

■ Mga artikulo ng inkorporasyon, by-laws, kasunduan sa pagsososyo, mga kasunduan sa joint venture, detalye ng korporasyon at taunang mga ulat, mga sinumpaang salaysay, mga deklarasyon o mga sertipikasyon ng bayad na na kapital;

■ Kasalukuyang mga lisensiya ng negosyo;

■ Mga talaan ng pagpapatala ng banyagang negosyo, mga kamakailang pagbabalik ng buwis ng anumang uri, ebidensiya ng ibang mga pagmumulan ng kapital;

■ Listahan ng lahat ng naninirahan at hindi naninirahang mga empleyado;

■ Isang listahan ng lahat ng mga mayhawak ng mga sertipiko ng negosyo para sa nakatatag na negosyo;

■ Isang listahan ng lahat ng mga korporasyon kung saan ang aplikante ay may namamahalang interes;

■ Mga kopya ng mga taunang ulat ng mga aktibidad ng puhunan sa CNMI na nagpapakita na ang may hawak ng sertipiko ng banyagang puhunan ay nasa ilalim ng patuloy na pagtupad sa mga kailangang pamantayan. Ang bawat ulat ay dapat may kasamang taunang pinansiyal na audit na ulat na isinagawa ng independiyenteng sinertipikuhang pampublikong accountant

**Mga indibiduwal na may ibinigay ng CNMI na pahintulot sa retiradong namumuhunan**

Ang mga retiradong namumuhunan ng CNMI ay dapat magsumite ng sumusunod kasama ang kanilan aplikasyon para sa E-2 CNMI na kalagayan sa Namumuhunan:

■ Patunay na ang banyagang aplikante ay may interes sa pag-ari sa CNMI, katulad na kasunduan sa upa;

■ Patunay ng halaga ng ari-arian, katulad ng appraisal;

■ Patunay ng anumang pagpapabuti sa ari-arian, na maaaring may kasamang mga resibo o mga invoice ng mga gastos sa pagpapagawa, ang halagang binayaran para sa umiiral nang istraktura o isang appraisal ng mga pagpapabuti.

*Source: USCIS*

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## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### 5.7 magnitude quake rocks southern Philippines

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP) — Officials say a 5.7 magnitude earthquake has rocked the southern Philippines, collapsing the walls of some houses and sending residents fleeing from their homes. There are no reports of injuries. The government's seismology institute said Friday that the moderately strong earthquake struck offshore, 33 miles (54 kilometers) east of Surigao City. Vice Mayor Alfred Arreza of Surigao del Sur province's Carrascal township said appliances tumbled and the walls of some houses collapsed when the quake struck late Thursday. A wall of a church and a portion of a seawall also collapsed while a highway was damaged. The Philippine archipelago lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire where earthquakes are common.

### 5 wounded in bomb blast in southern Philippines

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP) — Police say a bomb has exploded on a southern Philippine highway as a passenger bus was driving by, wounding two civilians on board and three government militiamen on the road. Senior Supt. Marcelo Pintac says it is not clear if Thursday morning's blast in southern Maguindanao province's Pandag township was targeting the bus or the militiamen guarding a nearby military detachment. He says the wounded are all in stable condition and their statements are being gathered. Soldiers and police have not yet identified the type of bomb used nor pinpointed motives and suspects. The volatile province is home to Muslim rebels, extortion gangs and a powerful clan blamed for the 2009 massacre of at least 57 people.

### Tigers, Burmese pythons rescued in Manila fire

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP) — Firefighters in the Philippines were shocked to find tigers, pythons and other wild animals when they responded to a recent house fire. Officials say five tigers, three Indian star tortoises, two Burmese pythons and several cats and dogs were rescued unhurt. The house was gutted. Wildlife official Rey Villafuerte said Tuesday the tigers are covered by a certificate of wildlife registration, but the owners had no permit to transport them to Manila. He says the house caretaker and one of the owners have been arrested while two others remain at large. A complaint has been filed against them for violating the country's Wildlife Act. They face up to a year in jail and fines. Investigators said wood may have been accidentally set on fire.

### Kin of 5 slain journalists file cases before UN

**MANILA, Philippines**—Relatives of five murdered journalists have taken their case to the United Nations against the Philippine government's "woeful response to the murders." The journalists William Yap Yu, Dennis Cuesta, Maricel Vigo, Juan Pala and Fernando Lintuan were all killed in separate instances across a time span of eight years, from 2000 to 2008. In their 5 communications, each running to around 30 pages, the families alleged breaches by the Philippines of their loved ones' rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 6, 19, 25 and 26). The families were utilizing the 'Individual Communication' procedure under the First Optional Protocol to the Covenant in filing their complaints and were hoping that it will be considered by the HRC jointly as a series. Lawyers Harry Roque and Romel R. Bagares of the Center Law, Philippines said the Philippine government's inaction to solve these killings "has contributed to the impunity for media killings in the country, culminating in the tragic Maguindanao massacre of 2009." ***(INQUIRER.net)***

# Philippines sends warplanes near disputed islands

BY JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine military deployed two warplanes near a disputed area in the South China Sea after a ship searching for oil complained it was harassed by two Chinese patrol boats, officials said Thursday.

The Chinese vessels later left without confrontation, said Philippine military commander Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban.

The incident happened Wednesday at the Reed Bank, which is near the disputed Spratly Islands that are claimed by the Philippines, China and other nations, said Sabban, who heads the military's Western Command. Philippine officials said the Reed Bank is clearly within Philippine territory.

"The boats approached in a way that the Philippine vessel thought it was better to back off," Carandang told The Associated Press.

Aside from its potential oil deposits, the Spratly archipelago has rich fishing grounds and straddles busy sea lanes that are a crucial conduit for oil and other resources fueling China's fast-expanding economy and those of other Asian nations. It has long been regarded as a potential flash point for conflict in Asia.

A Philippine military official said the Chinese boats maneuvered close at least twice, apparently trying to show that they would ram the Philippine vessel only to turn away when they got close.

They did not fire any warning shot and later moved away, said the official who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

A Philippine navy patrol ship has been deployed to secure the oil exploration activity, which would be resumed at the Reed Bank, the official said.

The Philippines has asked the Chinese Embassy to explain, but Chinese spokesman Ethan Sun declined to immediately comment.

The Spratlys, a group of islands, reefs and atolls believed to be sitting stop vast oil and gas reserves, has been claimed in whole or in part by China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Sabban said he deployed an OV-10 bomber plane and an Islander light aircraft to the Reed Bank to undertake surveillance after the Philippine ship radioed his command.

When the planes reached the area, the foreign vessels had left, said Sabban.

"It's clearly our territory," Sabban told the AP. "If they'll bully us, well, even children will fight back."

The vast sea area where the incident happened lies more than 124 miles (200 kilometers) west of the southwestern Philippine province of Palawan.

Beijing reacted with fury last year when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told an Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional security forum in Vietnam that the peaceful resolution of disputes over the Spratly and Paracel island groups was in the American national interest.

Beijing said Washington was interfering in an Asian regional issue.

The United States worries the disputes could hurt access to one of the world's busiest commercial sea lanes.

# 20 Filipino seamen released by Somali pirates

**NO TO MINING ACT** AP

Tribal Filipinos and environmental activists burn a caricature of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III during a rally near the Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines, Thursday, March 3, 2011, to coincide with the 16th anniversary of the Mining Act of 1995 which liberalized the country's mining industry and allegedly allowed 100-percent ownership by foreign corporations of mineral lands and mining operations. The protesters are calling for President Aquino III to discontinue the implementation of the mining act, which allegedly was started by the previous administration.

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Philippine Embassy in Kenya is making arrangements for the repatriation of 20 Filipino seafarers who were released last weekend after nearly five months of captivity by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The seamen were crew members of the Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel MV Isumi, which is owned by the Japanese shipping company NYK-Hinode Line Ltd and was hijacked by Somali pirates off the coast of Kenya last October 10.

The sailors, released on February 26 by the pirates, "will be repatriated from Nairobi to Manila," said DFA spokesman J. Eduardo Malaya.

To date, there are 118 Filipino seafarers still being held by pirates in Somali, said Malaya.

Malaya said the DFA was "coordinating with concerned Philippine embassies, the vessels' principals and their local manning agencies for the early and safe release of the seamen."

The foreign office earlier assigned Navy Captain Gaudencio Collado as the government's liaison officer with the Combined Maritime Fleet based in Bahrain, which coordinates the naval patrols against the pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

The DFA has undertaken "measures to minimize the exposure of Filipino seamen to piracy attacks, including making arrangements with ship principals and manning agencies for vessels to travel along a safety corridor and to adopt best management practices as deterrence to piracy attacks," said Malaya.

The government has also "taken up the issue of maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean before the United Nations and other international organizations," he said.

Malaya said the DFA "continues to provide assistance to our seafarers held captive by Somali pirates through domestic and multilateral channels."

Aside from ensuring the hostages got paid despite their ordeal, DFA personnel "also meet regularly with the seafarers' families to update them on the condition of the captives," he added.

# 40 Filipinos reach Manila after 5-day journey from Libya

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Forty Filipinos returned home from Libya on Thursday, bone-tired after almost a week of nonstop travels to reach Manila.

The Filipinos' journey took them from an oil field in the Sahara desert to a naval ship across the Mediterranean Sea, then to two ports in Italy, another in Qatar, and finally to Manila.

By the end of their five-day adventure, Oscar Garcia, 56, said he was just glad to be home, and looking forward to returning to his family in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

His co-worker, Carlito Estipular, 40, said his homecoming in Baguio would be the first time he would see his newborn son after several months abroad.

The group of workers employed by the Italian construction firm Bonatti arrived aboard Qatar Airways flight 648 just before 9 a.m. on Thursday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Their group was the first of five more batches of Filipinos that returned home from Libya on Thursday, mostly under repatriation arrangements made by their multinational companies.

The Manila International Airport Authority said 51 had arrived on three flights as of early Thursday afternoon, and two more flights carrying 71 Filipinos were to arrive later in the day. Since Saturday, some 1,430 Filipinos have returned from Libya.

Garcia recalled how they spent days cooped up in their rooms as armed militias, wearing bonnets to hide their faces, stormed their headquarters in Nafoora, an oil field in the Sahara, and took their valuables, such as cellular phones and laptop computers, as well as food provisions.

After a few days, he said their employer finally called in the Italian military to spirit all of its 300 workers, including the Filipinos, out of the desert on board a fleet of buses and nine vans.

"Our guards were all decked out in full battle gear... Fortunately, we did not have any hostile encounters on our way out," said Estipular.

They were taken to the Sirte port where they boarded a naval ship that took them to Catania, Italy.

Philippine embassy officials were waiting for them upon their arrival and stamped their travel documents, even though they only carried photocopies of their passports.

From Catania, they took a flight to Rome, and another to Doha, Qatar, and from there flew back to Manila. "We've been traveling for five days nonstop," Estipular said, sounding weary.

# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Vows in the magic hour

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Photo shows TV host John Estrada and beauty queen Priscilla Meirelles at their reception.

ABS-CBN CHANNEL head Cory Vidanes, who was a ninang, described the magic-hour ceremony as "emotional."

As the vocal group 92 AD sang "When God Made You," TV host John Estrada and beauty queen Priscilla Meirelles became husband and wife.

"The bride was walking down the aisle and the groom was already crying," Vidanes related. "There was not a dry eye at the venue [Thunderbird Poro Point Resort in La Union], especially when John said that his wish was that his late manager Douglas Quijano was there to witness his wedding."

Actor Richard Gomez, best man, agreed with Vidanes: "It was solemn, but oftentimes funny."

The vows were heartwarming, recounted Gomez's wife, Rep. Lucy Torres. "It was a lovely wedding. Touching."

"It was a joyous celebration, too," Vidanes added.

Estrada cracked up the guests when he rendered a song that he claimed he had "composed" for Meirelles.

Turned out, he reworked an old song, Luther Vandross' "I'd Rather."

### Two cultures

Meirelles wanted the ceremony to be a "union of two cultures," explained photographer Charisse Tinio.

(She's Brazilian; he's Filipino. It's Estrada's second try at marriage—after the breakup of his relationship with actress Janice de Belen.)

The Estrada-Meirelles nuptials ended, poetically, at dusk.

"By the end of the ceremony, the sky was a stunning shade of orange. It was perfect timing," recalled Tinio, whose studio also covered the weddings of Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid, Love Añover and Joms Lianko, Jenny Miller and Cupid Feril, also the same-sex wedding of Selena Sevilla and Lalen Calayan.

A day before Estrada and Meirelles tied the knot, a golf tournament was mounted for the male guests, while the ladies had spa treatments.

Tinio also documented the prenuptial events. The couple's Punta Fuego pictorial was published in a booklet, copies of which were given away to friends. A TV special on ABS-CBN is in the works.

The newlyweds, who wore creations by Randy Ortiz for the ceremony, stayed at the resort over the weekend. But Estrada went back to work on the daily noontime show "Happy, Yipee, Yehey" on Monday.

(Yes, the program that caused the groom's tiff with original "best man" Willie Revillame, who was a no-show, of course.)

Estrada is also in the cast of the nightly soap, "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin."

In a previous interview, Estrada told the Inquirer that Meirelles is very "supportive and understanding" in spite of the grueling demands of his new TV assignments.

## Ruffa happy as a single mother

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ruffa Gutierrez knows her daughters Lorin and Venice need a father figure, but she says she's not ready for a new relationship.

"I don't want to be with someone just so the girls will have a daddy. I think one of these days I will sit down and talk with them, make them understand our situation," Ruffa tells Inquirer Entertainment. "I've not explained to them why their parents are not living in the same house."

In 2007, Ruffa ended her four-year marriage to Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas. She had a short-lived affair with actor John Lloyd Cruz in 2009. The actress-TV host insists she's currently single and denies going out on dates.

### Just hanging out

"I have a lot of guy friends that I hang out with. If there's someone special, I will not hide him," she says. "Everyone is in search of the one true love that will make them happy. [But] if a relationship is not worth it, I'd rather be single."

She's proud to say that she's doing well as a single mom. "That's because Lorin and Venice are really good kids. We're lucky for the father figures in the house, like their Lolo Elvis (Eddie Gutierrez, her dad) and their uncles, although of course the girls know these are relatives, not their real dad."

Ruffa is also glad to have patched things up with Kris Aquino. The two had a rift in 2009, shortly before Ruffa, who used to cohost ABS-CBN's "The Buzz" with Aquino and Boy Abunda, left the show and moved to TV5.

"We were, I think, both very emotional at the time. I was about to leave my home network, so I was depressed. I didn't know she was also going through a difficult time—she and James (Yap) weren't talking," Ruffa recalls.

Ruffa, Kris, comedian Ai Ai de las Alas and actor Dingdong Dantes were the emcees of the concert on the last day of the recent celebration of the Edsa People Power Revolution's 25th anniversary. Ruffa is thankful to singer Ogie Alcasid, who organized the event.

### Friends again

"I said yes immediately," says Ruffa. "It was good to work with Kris again. Before the event, we bumped into each other twice—first in a bar, then at the Taylor Swift concert. There's no reason not to end the rift."

**Ruffa Gutierrez**

Ruffa is in the cast of TV5's new teleserye, "Mga Nagbabagang Bulaklak," directed by Jon Red and premiering March 21.

She describes her character, Ms. O, as "a mix of Meryl Streep's character in 'The Devil Wears Prada,' Brooke Shields in 'Lipstick Jungle' and Lucy Liu in 'Cashmere Mafia.'"

## Kris: I'm not a big name

By Marinel R. Cruz
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA 7'S new fantasy-drama series "Machete" hopes to attract more viewers to boost its performance, ratings-wise. The recent inclusion of Kris Bernal in the cast is widely construed as a means to this end.

Kris herself doesn't think she was added to the show to "save" it, as it were. "I'm not that big an actress to make anything like that happen. The show's doing well. I guess it's just because my on-screen partnership with ('Machete' lead star) Aljur has proven effective," she pointed out.

Kris likewise brushed aside the rumor that "Machete" lead actresses Ryza Cenon and Bela Padilla are not happy about her joining the show. "They're professional actors. I'm sure they're not bitter," said Kris.

She added that she has worked with them in the past—Ryza in "Koreana" and Bela in "Party Pilipinas."

Kris' character, Jessa, is a rich heiress being forced to marry someone she doesn't love (Paolo Contis). On the day of her wedding, she runs away and meets Machete.

Kris began taping for the show on Feb. 21. Her last project with Aljur was another fantasy-drama, "The Last Prince."

## Pops Fernandez: There is more to life than show biz

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

After producing David Pomeranz's sold-out show at The Establishment, Pops Fernandez will launch her online shop, Cheapipay.com.ph, on March 6.

"It's a website where you can find luxurious items and services at affordable prices," says Pops. "People will be surprised with the big discounts in the services and the reasonable prices of the goods. I have always been a techie, that's why this baby of mine is a dream come true. I can spend the whole day just surfing the Net and tinkering with my gadgets."

Is this the reason she's not too visible on TV these days?

"I have been offered to do a teleserye," says Pops. "But it will take too much of my time. Ayoko na ng puyatan sa taping and the next day tulog lang ako. I love my work but I've reached a point where I realize there's more to life than show biz."

### Closer now

It's so heartwarming to know that ex-couple Aiko Melendez and chef Martin Jickain have become closer after Aiko's recent split-up with Patrick Meneses. Even if Mart is now happy with his girlfriend, he still makes his presence felt in Aiko's life mainly because of their daughter, Marthena.

Chef Mart is all agog over his new partnership with Le Fusion, a resto at The Fort, starting March 14.

Aiko, on the other hand, is busier than ever. "I feel blessed that I have so many projects now," she says. "It will help me recover faster from the breakup. I am also determined to lose more weight and I even asked Mart to make a diet plan for me."

Aiko and Mart are living proof that not all ex-es should be excluded from our life.

### Just rumors

Lea Salonga clarifies rumors that her marriage is on the rocks. "I guess people who made up that story are just bored," she says. "For lack of anything better to talk about, they concoct such crazy stuff. My husband gave me a surprise birthday party when I turned 40 last Feb. 22. He made sure he invited all my fave people in the world. A friend even flew in from the United States. Plus all my fave dishes were served. That should be an indication that our marriage is far from being in trouble."

### Prime time dish

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski is back on TV on GMA 7's newest prime time drama, "Magic Palayok" (weekdays before "24 Oras"). She plays Isadora, the doting mother of Cookie (Angeli Nicole Sanoy), and the original keeper of the enchanted clay pot.

The show is about a magical clay pot that makes mouth-watering dishes through the help of its adorable owner, Cookie. Adding star power are real-life sweethearts Geoff Eigenmann and Carla Abellana.

Stop, cook and listen as the show tries to serve the kind of fun you hunger for.

### Buboy and Shine's 11th

The couple closest to my heart, Cesar and Sunshine Montano, celebrated their 11th anniversary last February 24 (secret wedding). They got married thrice. The second time was on September 14, 2000, at the Coconut Palace and the third, an underwater wedding, took place in Trang, Thailand, on February 14, 2005.

They had a romantic Japanese dinner at Toki Resto (The Fort) to mark their 11th year together. What are their anniversary gifts to each other? "Buboy's Hummer that I have long wanted.

RUSHES

## Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

Luis Manzano on why he considers best friend Anne Curtis as his "soul mate": "I cannot imagine spending the rest of my living years without her—not necessarily in a romantic sense, but she is my significant other."

Anne Curtis on who she thinks is the best match for Luis Manzano, among all girls he has dated: "Itago na lang natin siya sa pangalang…'Hulog ng Langit!'" (Ah, Angel yan.)

Sarah Geronimo on her decision to speak up about Rayver Cruz, Cristine Reyes and herself: "Nung una ayoko talagang pagusapan at bulatlatin pa 'yung mga nangyari. Ayoko nang pagpiyestahan kami. Pero masyado na kasing masakit para hayaan ko na lang na 'yung ibang tao na ganituhin ako, lalung-lalo na ang pamilya ko."

Cristine Reyes' message to her detractors: "Ang wish ko lang po, matanggap na ng iba na masaya na kami [ni Rayver] at wala kaming kasalanan sa kanila ... Gusto ko nang matapos ang issue."

Lovi Poe on the recent conviction of boyfriend Rep. Ronald Singson: "I don't want to talk because I don't know anything. Marami naman akong friends, and I have a good support system around me … I should always look at the bright side of life." (That's a lot to not know.)

# Maharlika – Opinyon

## Power of memory

The commentators have already universally registered their protest against Bongbong Marcos' effort to rewrite history. Specifically his declaration that if this country hadn't booted out his father 25 years ago, we'd be another Singapore by now.

Well, it's a mind-boggling piece of historical invention and deserves all the brickbats—and text jokes—it got. Someone would tell me later that the reason Bongbong said that was that he wanted to get a head start in rewriting history in time to run for president in 2016. He is serious about it apparently, inspired by, or envious about, Corazon Aquino's son becoming president. So is Jinggoy Estrada, emboldened by his strong showing the last elections, and encouraged to think he can do a Benigno Aquino III as well. Quite apart from personal ambition, both apparently are driven to venture thus by a desire to vindicate their fathers.

It does add whole new dimensions to George Santayana's famous aphorism that those who do not read history are condemned to repeat it. One is tempted to scoff at it too, or dismiss it outright, along with Bongbong's comments about the heroic vision of martial law. It sounds horrendously deluded. Except for several things.

One is that 25 years after Edsa, Bongbong Marcos is a senator, Imelda Marcos is the representative of the second district of Ilocos Norte, and Imee Marcos is the governor of Ilocos Norte.

The last two are not altogether surprising: Ilocos Norte is a land history forgot, or it is a land that has forgotten history, or it is a land untouched by history—three ways of saying the same thing. At least since 1965 when Marcos won his first term. It is a land where the Marcos myth remains alive, or where it is preserved in the same state as his body. It is a land that continues to have textbooks for schoolchildren that say Marcos was the greatest president, if not human being, if not demigod, this country has ever produced. You can almost expect a Marcos to routinely win there as representative or governor.

**There's The Rub**

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

But Bongbong is another matter entirely. He is a senator, voted by the country at large. Is this just another case of the kind of Christian charity we like to practice or another case of the capacity for national amnesia we are cursed to live with?

Two is that 25 years are a long time for other countries and an eternity for ours. If you were born during Edsa, you would be 25 years old today. If you were born during Edsa, you would be 30 years old by the time we vote for the next president. If you were born during Edsa, by the time you vote in 2016 you will know nothing about martial law other than what you've read in books or heard from the "old folks."

The difference between Edsa and today is the difference during my time between the "Liberation" and Woodstock. That is not just a difference in time, that is a difference in worlds. I imagine the way "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo" and "Magkaisa" sound to the 25-year-olds today is the way Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" sounded to me in 1970, and I wasn't even 20 then. Whenever the veterans, real or imagined, talked about the War, it seemed like they were talking about something that happened during the turn of the century. I couldn't understand why they hated the Japanese with a passion.

In this country in particular, which has the retentive powers of the senile, 25 years can be forever. Enough to make the rest of the country think like Ilocos Norte? Probably not, but at least enough to make today's 25-year-olds and the ones that will come after them forget a great many horrors of martial law the way we forgot those of the Japanese occupation.

Three is that it's the easiest thing for "collaborators" to rehabilitate themselves in this country. Manuel Roxas was known to have cooperated with the Japanese, but became the very first postwar president of this country. That was after Douglas MacArthur himself cleared him of it, which historians later claimed was a calculation on the part of the Americans: They wanted a tractable president, one who would agree to all the iniquitous treaties they were foisting on us, and who better to guarantee that tractability than one they had the goods on?

Jose Laurel was the president of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine government, and underwent the collaboration trials until the trials were stopped by Roxas upon the instigation of the Americans themselves who needed to reunite the local elite to fight off the Huks. By 1949, four years after the Liberation, he was in a position to run for president, and did, losing to Elpidio Quirino only narrowly, and only because—as Quirino was accused at the time, which the public believed—Quirino cheated massively.

By 1992, six years after Edsa, Danding Cojuangco had been rehabilitated enough to run for president, and he at least believes that he lost only because Ramos (or Ronnie Puno) cheated him more massively than Miriam Santiago.

None of this is to suggest that we should just tear our hair, weep and gnash our teeth, sighing, "There but for the grace of God goes Juan de la Cruz." All of this is to suggest the staggering task that lies before the martial law generation to make this country remember. Indeed, all this is to suggest the monumental duty that lies before People Power to make this country remember. How to do that is another story, or column. But that should be the thrust, the direction, the trajectory. For this country in particular, mired in the fog of forgetfulness, none comes more urgently. True enough, those who do not heed their history are bound to repeat it. Those who do not remember their tyranny are destined to resurrect it. Those who not remember their freedom are doomed to lose it.

The power of the people begins with the power of memory.

## EDITORIAL

## From the top

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The current congressional inquiries on the controversial plea bargain entered into by disgraced military comptroller Carlos F. Garcia with the Office of the Ombudsman have been questioned by some critics for being long on politics and short on legislation. The investigations may have opened a Pandora's box of disgusting revelations—the practice of providing multimillion-peso going-away presents for the outgoing Armed Forces chiefs of staff during the previous administration, the apparent complicity of auditors and anti-graft prosecutors who are constitutionally mandated to provide checks and balances to military and official corruption—and they will surely go a long way in determining how deep-seated corruption is among the top brass and how military men holding critical positions could wield influence that equals if not exceeds that of his superiors. But it remains to be seen whether the inquiries will ultimately reform the military, whether it will go beyond the realm of political theatrics, and whether it will have an effect beyond the paltry impact of newspaper headlines that are here today, gone tomorrow. What the people want to know is whether the lessons that have been learned from the sordid episode will lead to lasting reforms through legislation. After all, congressional investigations are supposedly conducted in aid of legislation.

Providing legislative direction toward a reformed AFP is House Bill No. 6 prescribing a fixed term of three years for the AFP chief of staff. The relevance of the proposed law to the furor over Garcia's plea bargain is easy to see. The quick succession of chiefs of staff under the previous administration was made possible by compulsory retirement laws which provided a legal fig leaf to the appointing power's self-serving design to ingratiate herself to the military establishment, enabling each of the military top brass to sit for a short time as head. In the process, the administration built itself a base in the military that solidified its hold on power. The result was the worst politicization of the military since Ferdinand Marcos' martial law as well as the further corruption of the AFP.

With the chief of staff's term fixed for three years, the position will be insulated from politics, and the sitting president can conduct a professional search for qualified candidates. Of course, the position will not be 100 percent immune from politics but a president making a critical appointment to a powerful position whose term is fixed by law to practically half of a chief executive's elective term would think twice—and very hard—before making an appointment.

Another reform measure that merits serious study is legislation barring the appointment of military retirees to civilian positions for a number of years. Former administrations have dangled such rewards to buy the loyalty of military officers, again contributing to the politicization of the military while watering down a key pillar of constitutional republicanism: civilian authority over the military. The result was the militarization of the bureaucracy. The way to military reforms is clear: The government must establish a thoroughly professional officers' corps.

## Innocent abroad

On June 19 we will celebrate Rizal's 150th birthday. To prepare for a number of events and speaking engagements, I have been re-reading his letters. To get to know Rizal, you have to read his own writings. It is unfortunate, however, that our National Hero wrote a lot for a nation that does not read.

Imagine a multi-volume correspondence: 954 known letters exchanged between him and others, arranged by recipient. We have a volume of letters to his family, a thick volume of letters to his colleagues in the Propaganda Movement, two volumes of letters to his friend Ferdinand Blumentritt, and a slim volume called "Miscellaneous Letters" to people who could not be classified in the other volumes. All the love letters exchanged with the women in his life are in "Miscellaneous."

To a generation with a short attention span, to a people who communicate via SMS in abbreviated text messages, Rizal's letters can be very long. When you realize everything was written longhand, you cannot help but marvel at the reams of paper he consumed and the fact that he didn't develop Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

**Looking Back**

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

His letters to his family in 1882 are particularly charming because we see a Filipino on his first trip abroad. He may have taken a boat rather than a plane, but the experience is the same. From the boat where he was initially seasick and bored after the long journey, he wrote:

"The following day, at dawn, Napoli (Naples) appeared to us, a gigantic city that lies asleep beside Vesuvius, a volcano that seems to be guarding this wonderful city. Its extent from Pasilipo Mountain until the other extreme, all populated, would be the same as from the town of Calamba until beyond Los Baños. It has elegant edifices, like the Royal Palace, the Castle of Santelmo and St. Telmo, numerous hotels, the Tower of Massaniello, and the lugubrious state prison.

"We were not allowed more than one hour to go ashore which I spent visiting Napoli at the risk of being left behind. Those of us who went ashore were four, and accompanied by a tour guide, we went around the city. It was the first European city I passed through. From pleasure to pleasure, from surprise to surprise, in an elegant coach, guided by a guide who spoke French, I went through those streets, carefully paved with large, black, flat paving stones, and crossed by streetcars. Statues, houses, stores and show-windows glittering for the lavish use of gilt and crystal attract the attention of the traveler, especially if he comes from the colonies. How sorry I am not to be able to stop and see it, study it, examine it more closely and a little more carefully. Almost one moment more and the boat would leave me behind. But all this magnificent panorama cost me much, because the coachman and guide cheated me, charging me four times more than the agreed price."

When Rizal describes the good reception he had from fellow passengers, none of whom guessed that he was from the Philippines and who often mistook him for a Japanese, we understand why he had to travel first class. He would be discriminated against in cattle class. Besides, everyone who watched "Titanic" know that in those days first class passengers had life boats and life vests during an emergency. Everyone else had to swim for life.

Rizal also stayed in the best hotels. Here he describes his first ride in an elevator:

Grand Hotel Noailles is one of the best hotels, if not the best, in Marseilles, with all the comforts, carpeted marble staircase, hydraulic elevators for going up and down all the floors without having to lift one foot, servants attired in dress coat with white necktie, clean and elegant, carpeted rooms with dressing tables, velvet chairs with springs, electric bells, imperial bedsteads—in short, excellent service. But it must be noted that here even the candle is paid for separately. On account of the excessive cold that penetrated everywhere, I had to keep my room, which is full of embroidered curtains and carpeted, always closed. I strolled through those wide and clean streets [of Marseilles], paved like those in Manila and full of people, attracting the attention of everybody who called me Chinese, Japanese, American, etc., but no one called me Filipino! Poor country, no one has heard of you!"

Then he took an express train from Marseilles to Barcelona:

"The ticket is very cheap—12 pesos and 3 pesetas, first class. You travel at full speed of from five to six leagues per hour. By boat the trip costs almost as much and it's more uncomfortable. We were going at such speed that when we met trains running in the opposite direction, it was physically impossible to look at them because your head would turn around. That was infernal; it seemed like lightning, a monster, a shooting star. We went through tunnels, or rather mountains, one of which was so very long that at the speed we were going I believed we made it in more than five minutes.

"At one stop I was much frightened. A stop of 30 minutes was announced. I went down for some necessity and after five minutes, I saw the train pulling out taking along my luggage with my money in it. I ran after it; I didn't overtake it. Fortunately, a gendarme informed me that it would return soon and that it would only change tracks. After that I didn't go down again."

Rizal, on his first trip, was truly an innocent abroad.

# Maharlika – Samu't Sari

**DC MEETING**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, meets with U.S. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) on Feb. 28, 2011, during a break at the NGA Winter Meeting. Fitial reiterated the concerns he raised during his previous meeting with Boehner's chief of staff. Boehner, who is also a long-time friend of Fitial, extended his regards to the people of the Commonwealth.

**COURTESY CALL**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and press secretary Angel A. Demapan flank Republican National Committee chair Reince Priebus at the RNC headquarters during Fitial's visit on Feb. 24, 2011.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 6th birthday to Jessica Pineda! May the good Lord continue to shower you with many blessings. You will always be our little girl. We love you! Greetings come from Elmer and Tess Pineda family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 14th birthday to the love of my life, Lynette Joyce Vasquez, whose birthday was yesterday, March 4, 2011. I love you more than words can say. May you have more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 14th birthday to our dear daughter, Luisa Marie Camacho, who is celebrating her special day today, March 5, 2011. We love you! From, Dad, Mom, Alyson, kuya Jr. and Jayson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our lovely and wonderful sister in-law, Verna M. Reyes, who is celebrating her special day today, March 5, 2011! May the good Lord bless your special day and guide you. With lot's of love, hugs, and kisses sister. Cheers to you! Greetings come from your sisters-in-law Linda, Mary, Darlyn, Julie, Brenda and Julyn-Lizamas, brothers-in-law Ray, June (Lizama), Dennis (Ngeskebei), Jimmy (Cruz), and Robert (Blas), and the Lizama and Basa families. Also, happy 18th birthday to our son (the one and only son), Peter Anthony Lizama Ngeskebei, who is also celebrating his special day today, March 5, 2011! May the good lord continue to bless you and guide you throughout your life. With lots of love, hugs, and kisses. We all miss you sunshine! Greetings come from Daddy (Dennis), Mommy (Linda), and sister (Daisy Duke), the Ngeskebei families, Lizama families, and Basa families.

**FREE DICTIONARY**

A Wiiliam S. Reyes Elementary School student gets one free dictionary from Rotarians Victoria Concepcion, Amie Javier, and Ning Reyes during the distribution held Wednesday at the school.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

**CONSULAR SERVICES**

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino employee Baby Abegail C. Bawalan, center, smiles as she gets her photo taken for her ePassport application during the mobile consular services on Tinian last Feb. 19. Bawalan became the first ePassport applicant during the event. At left is Consul General Medardo Macaraig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, standing, poses with the staff of the Philippine Consulate General and two Filipino workers on Tinian who availed of the mobile consular services on Feb. 19-20 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# YoungStyle

# NJ gymnast, 7, balances religious faith and sports

By SAMANTHA HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—When 7-year-old Amalya Knapp took the beam at the New Jersey state gymnastics finals last month, her excellent performance symbolized a far more complicated balancing act.

Although she would have ranked fifth in her age group, eligible for a medal, her individual scores were discounted. She was unable to compete on a Saturday because of her Orthodox Jewish family's observance of the Sabbath.

"I was upset," Amalya said, "but my mother told me there are decisions you have to make."

USA Gymnastics made an effort to accommodate her and let her compete the next day, Sunday, Feb. 13, and permitted her scores to factor into her team's overall rankings.

But the national governing body held that because she hadn't competed at the same time as girls of her skill level and age group, her scores: 9.7 on vault, 9.575 floor, 9.5 beam and 8.75 bars - would not count toward individual medals or rankings.

The news disappointed the second-grader, a member of the US Gym team of the United States Gymnastics Development Center in Leonia, N.J. She had placed first in the all-around category in five previous competitions.

"She tried so hard, and practiced for months, and really put in her all, but just couldn't get that final award for her efforts," said Chavie Knapp, Amalya's mother. Knapp emphasized that her family appreciated USA Gymnastics' efforts to discuss the issue with them and try to reach a compromise.

"I wasn't bitter, and wasn't angry and worked with the organization and tried to work within the system," Knapp said.

Knapp said she and her husband encourage Amalya to engage in the sports and activities she loves, including ice skating lessons and playing for a Jewish youth soccer league that never practices or competes on Saturdays. Amalya said she wants one day to be an Olympic gymnast.

If she had to choose again between competing or observing the Sabbath, she said, "I would do the religion things."

She isn't the only young athlete faced with reconciling her passion for sports with religious obligation. Experts say the issue arises in all faiths, in nearly every sport, and at all levels of competition.

Last month, a standout Iowa high school wrestler, Joel Northrup, refused to compete against a girl at a state tournament, citing his Pentecostal religious beliefs against contact sports between men and women. His position caused him to relinquish any championship hopes.

AP

Seven-year-old Amalya Knapp does her gymnastic warm-up exercises at her family's home in Teaneck, N.J., Friday, Feb. 18, 2011. Knapp's family is upset with USA Gymnastics, after the organization allegedly did not allow the Orthodox Jewish girl's scores to count toward any title or rankings because she could not compete on the Jewish Sabbath.

One of the most memorable instances of an athlete embracing religion over team duty was the refusal of Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers to pitch the opening game of the 1965 World Series. Koufax was observing Yom Kippur, a day of fasting and atonement considered the holiest date of the Jewish calendar.

It was Koufax's story that Amalya's parents chose to explain to her that the Sabbath—for which observant Jews abstain from working from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday—would always take precedence over the sport she loves.

"My father told me stories of people who had to do this, and I felt better," Amalya said.

Chavie Knapp said Amalya, who attends school at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, was disappointed to miss her first state finals competition in a sport she had loved since she was a toddler. She practices up to 12 hours a week and dreams of competing in the Olympics one day.

"We had to try to help her understand how we really feel strongly that she can be a great gymnast and still be a committed Orthodox Jew," Knapp said. "We want her to be able to combine the love that she has for both of those things into an appreciation for both, and not a resentment of either."

A spokeswoman for USA Gymnastics, Leslie King, said the organization does its best to reasonably provide alternatives to athletes who face scheduling conflicts for religious or other reasons, when possible.

"USA Gymnastics is sensitive to these issues and will continue in its efforts to provide reasonable options to athletes under appropriate circumstances," King said in an e-mail message.

Assemblyman Gary Schaer, D-Passaic, the only Orthodox Jewish member of New Jersey's Legislature, wrote USA Gymnastics, saying its policies don't go far enough to accommodate athletes from all religious and racial backgrounds.

"I am sure you would agree about the critical importance in a child's life of both religious observance and athletic competition and that one should not come at the detriment of the other," he wrote.

Chavie Knapp said news coverage of her daughter's situation, first reported in The Record newspaper of Woodland Park, N.J., had put the family at the center of a heated debate over whether religious exemptions have a place in sports.

"This issue has really been pushing a lot of buttons for people," Knapp said. She's received an outpouring of mostly supportive comments, she said.

But there have been plenty of detractors.

"I had the other side, of people very angry, saying: why should I be accommodated when there's so many different religions and so many different issues that people have that come up, and why did I sign up for something knowing that I wouldn't be able to go to some of the events?" She said.

Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner of Wyncote, Pa., who competed for Arizona State University in the 1960s and held a national title in archery, is a Conservative Jew who observes the Sabbath.

College-level competition is rare for a Sabbath-observant Jew, Lerner said.

"In a nutshell, you can participate in sports, you can enjoy it, you can excel, but the way the world runs, you're not going to be in any competitions," he said. "You can't be in any sport that has competitions on the Sabbath, and not just games, but also workouts and practices on the Sabbath or holidays; that means you're not eligible for a football scholarship," Lerner said, adding with a laugh: "Well, go learn the oboe."

Lerner said he encourages young observant Jews to engage in sports for the training and self-discipline it teaches, but knowing that they may not reach competition levels. He teaches sports and other activities at Jewish summer camps, where children play games on Saturday, but scores aren't kept, to observe Sabbath rules against competing.

The rabbi said it's rare to find Orthodox Jews or strict Sabbath observers among top Jewish athletes, including Israel's professional and Olympic athletes.

Jeffrey S. Gurock, a professor at New York's Yeshiva University and author of the book Judaism's Encounter with American Sports, said Orthodox Jewish athletes or religiously observant athletes of other faiths can only reach a certain competitive level before running into conflicts.

"Can you be fully observant Jew and compete, and also observe the Sabbath? The answer is no," Gurock said. "America is making it easier, but in the end, if you're an Orthodox Jew, your religion will trump the sport, and if you want to be fully observant, you're only going to rise so far unless you can devote 365 days to your sport."

He said the sports world had increasingly recognized, and embraced, America's diversity and pluralism compared to decades past.

"It's still a difficult issue, and if you're going to be a top-flight athlete, you have to make a choice," Gurock said. "They're not going to postpone Wimbledon."

Other major sporting events have been postponed, however, for religious considerations, Gurock said. It's the reason major sporting events are rarely broadcast on Christmas Eve or that ESPN and Major League Baseball agreed, after complaints from die-hard Jewish baseball fans, to switch the starting time of a Yankees-Red Sox game on Sept. 27, 2009, so it wouldn't conflict with the beginning of Yom Kippur.

"Sports is the metaphor, but the real story is how do you live and integrate into American culture and maintain your own tradition," Gurock said. "It's a Jewish story, a Muslim story, a Mormon story."

# Underdog: Hundreds seek Okla. pup back from 'dead'

By KRISTI EATON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—Hundreds of people from the United States and Canada want to adopt an Oklahoma dog that survived an attempt to euthanize it.

The puppy was one of five stray dogs that Sulphur animal control officer Scott Prall put to sleep Friday—or so he thought. Prall found one of the dogs alive Saturday in a trash bin set aside for dead animals and took it to veterinarian technician Amanda Kloski.

"He was prancing around. He heard me drive up, and he looked up and saw me," Prall said Wednesday.

He said he initially found the stray dog near the animal shelter Friday and tried to kill it by injecting the dog with two lethal doses of a sedative in a foreleg and the heart. Each dose should have been enough to kill the dog, and the second injection was meant to ensure it worked.

Kloski noted the dog's survival on a pet adoption website, drawing the attention of Marcia Machtiger of Pittsburgh, who donated $100 so Kloski could board the dog for a week.

A girl from Sulphur named the puppy Wall-e, after a Disney movie character, and Machtiger posted Wall-e's story on her Facebook page.

She and Kloski are sorting through hundreds of e-mails and phone calls from people wanting to adopt the lucky dog.

"So many people are interested," Kloski said. "Now we're going through and trying to find the adoption applications for the best home."

Wall-e will be placed in a foster home at the end of the week while the search for a permanent home continues. Both Kloski and Machtiger said they have never seen so many people want to adopt one animal.

Machtiger said people are interested in the puppy because his story is unique.

"Having been euthanized basically twice. ... It's a resurrection and a will to live and a medical anomaly," she said.

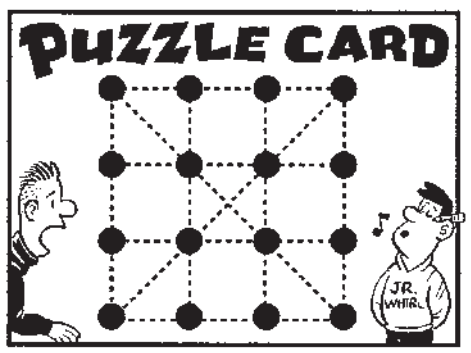
Sulphur is about 80 miles south of Oklahoma City.

*The author is a former reporter of the* Saipan Tribune.

AP

This photo provided March 2, 2011, by Marcia Machtiger shows a puppy now named Wall-e who managed to survive despite two attempts to euthanize it, that hundreds of people from the United States and Canada are reaching out to try to adopt. Wall-e was one of five dogs put to sleep Friday after being found abandoned near a Sulphur, Okla., animal shelter. Saturday, an animal control officer noticed the black-and-white puppy was still alive.

## PUZZLE CARD



**PUT SIXTEEN COINS** on the table and challenge your friends to arrange them in such a manner that they form 10 rows, with four coins in each row. Our solution is pictured above.

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

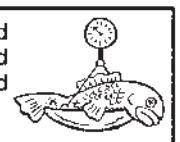
**TREE TESTING TIME!**

Our friend is guarding a wonderful forest filled with many kinds of trees. Using the following hints, can you identify 15 of them?

1. What tree remains after a fire?
2. What trees are always well-dressed?
3. What tree is a part of a dress and a part of a door?
4. What tree is the straightest tree in the forest?
5. What trees are always sad?
6. What tree is like an old story.
7. What is the hero's tree?
8. What tree is a good-looking girl?
9. What tree grows at the seaside?
10. What tree is a deep breath and a printing machine?
11. What tree is an ocean inlet?
12. What tree do you carry around all the time?
13. What tree do we like stuffed?
14. What are the most important trees in history?
15. What tree is a good churchman?

Answers: 1. Ash. 2. Spruce. 3. Hemlock. 4. Plum (plumb). 5. Pine. 6. Chestnut. 7. Laurel. 8. Peach. 9. Beech (beach). 10. Cypress. 11. Bay. 12. Palm. 13. Olive. 14. Oaten. 15. Elder.

**A FISHY TALE!** The catch of the day was a fish whose head was 9 inches long, while its tail was as long as its head and half the length of its body, and its body was as long as its head and tail put together. What was the total length of the fish?



Answer: 72 inches. Its head was 9 inches, its body 36 inches, and its tail 27 inches long.

**LINK-UPS!** Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | FAIN | PELT |
| 2 | GAB | HONE |
| 3 | MISS | TEST |
| 4 | HAS | TIES |
| 5 | NICE | LED |
| 6 | OUTS | TIER |

Answers: Faintest, gabled, hastier, misspelt, niceties, outshone.

# Big cats

This week Paws Corner is going to go big—really big—and talk a bit about cats that are a little too large to keep as house pets: namely, cats like pumas, wildcats, cougars, tigers, leopards, you name it. Too often, they're purchased as pets or as show animals only to be neglected or worse when things don't go so well for their owners. That's why I'm calling attention to a standout organization, Big Cat Rescue.

This Florida-based organization made it a mission almost 20 years ago to rescue big cats and care for them. The story of how it began is pretty incredible—founders Carole and Don Baskin, after visiting a bobcat breeder and finding out that most of his lynxes and bobcats were sold for their fur, purchased all 56 of the breeder's cats and took them from Minnesota to Florida rather than leave them to be slaughtered. Their transition from casual pet owners who thought it would be cool to own a bobcat to committed advocates for stopping exploitation of big cats is a tale in itself.

If you're interested in big cats for any reason, visit their website at www.bigcatrescue.org. The site is chock full of information about these cats, why they don't make good pets and ways that you can help the sanctuary continue its work.

P.S. If you're a frequent visitor to www.pawscorner.com, you probably know that Purina is looking for a "Cat Chow correspondent" to travel the country on behalf of Purina, attend cat events and connect with fellow cat owners. Applications will be accepted through March 28 at catchow.com.

■ ■ ■

*Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was computer guru Jef Raskin who made the following sage observation: "Imagine if every Thursday your shoes exploded if you tied them the usual way. This happens to us all the time with computers, and nobody thinks of complaining."

■ Most people think of Abraham Lincoln as an iconic president and the Great Emancipator, but many don't realize that he also was an inventor. He was issued patent No. 6,469 for an inflatable device he designed to help buoy river-going vessels over shoals.

■ In Somalia it is common for a girl to be engaged before she is even born.

■ If you get squeamish around bugs, you might not want to read the following little tidbit of information: Nearly every human carries around tiny eyelash mites that live out their entire lives on our faces—including mating and laying eggs there.

■ Due to a series of earthquakes in 1811 and 1812, the Mississippi River ran backward for a time.

■ An enterprising inventor named Andrew Schneider has come up with the latest geek apparel: a solar bikini. With it, you can tan while also charging up your iPod. No word on whether there are solar swim trunks in the pipeline for men.

■ J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books are so popular worldwide that now they're not even being written by Rowling herself. The booming bootleg industry in China seems to have taken the Potter series to heart, creating such titles as "Harry Potter and the Leopard Walk-Up-To Dragon," "Harry Potter and the Chinese Overseas Students at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry," "Harry Potter and the Chinese Porcelain Doll," "Rich Dad, Poor Dad and Harry Potter" and "Harry Potter and the Filler of Big."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "You don't get anything clean without getting something else dirty."—Cecil Baxter

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## MAGIC MAZE — U.S. PRESIDENTS WITH MILITARY SERVICE

R N K H E B Y V S P M J H E B
Y N S V T Q O T N L I G D B Y
W T O E R G P A M K I F D B Y
W U S T Y R G Y Q D O M K I N
F D B R G A Z L D L X W U S O
N E I S E N H O W E R Q O K S
N O L R A T I R L I N C O L N
J H X M F D R H D F C N A O H
Y W U I V R T A S R S Q E P O
P R N L N O S K C A J K I K J
T H F E C F B Z Y G W W V U S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carter | Hayes | Lincoln | Taylor |
| Eisenhower | Jackson | Nixon | Truman |
| Ford | Johnson | Polk | Washington |
| Garfield | Kennedy | Reagan | |

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | × | | − | | 26 |
| − | | × | | × | |
| | × | | − | | 25 |
| × | | + | | × | |
| | × | | − | | 26 |
| 25 | | 30 | | 28 | |

1 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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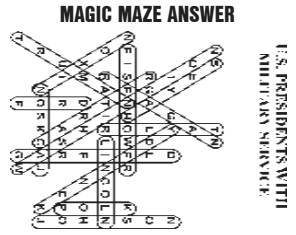
**MAGIC MAZE ANSWER**




**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | × | 3 | − | 1 | 26 |
| − | × | | × | | |
| 4 | × | 8 | − | 7 | 25 |
| × | | × | | × | |
| 5 | × | 6 | − | 4 | 26 |
| 25 | | 30 | | 28 | |

# Grow green indoors; get jump on spring

After the long winter months, there's nothing like seeing and smelling fresh, green plants peeking out from the earth. Create that feeling indoors to get a jump on spring with these easy and gratifying "grow green" sprouting activities. Make it super easy by growing wheat berry or rye grass seed in a clear jar or vase to brighten your home, grow a good luck charm shamrock centerpiece for St. Patrick's Day on March 17, or grow a spring village in a saucer.

For each growing activity, you'll need wheat berry or rye grass seeds. Wheat berry seeds cost only pennies, and they are readily available in bulk in natural food stores and some supermarkets.

### GRASS IN GLASS

Find a simple, clear wide vase or jar. Scoop potting soil into the container to a depth of about 2 inches. Sprinkle the seeds on the soil. Add enough water to moisten both the soil and seeds. Loosely cover with plastic wrap until seeds sprout in 3-4 days, then remove the plastic wrap. Place in a sunny window and watch both the roots and green grass grow each day. Your kids will be totally amazed to see how rapidly the grass reaches to the top of the container. Mist with water occasionally.

### GROWIN' OF THE GREEN FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

With scissors, cut a new kitchen sponge into the shape of a shamrock. Soak the sponge in water and set it on a plastic tray or pie tin. Generously sprinkle the sponge with seeds all over the shape. Add water to the pan, loosely cover with plastic wrap until the seeds begin to sprout, and then remove the plastic.

Once the seeds begin to grow, place the "shamrock" in a sunny area. Within a few days, the growing seeds will transform a plain sponge into a beautiful giant green "shamrock." Keep the sponge moist—a perfect watering activity for young gardeners.

### A LIVING MINIATURE VILLAGE IN A SAUCER

Kids can design their own mini village while nature takes care of the plant life. Fill a 10-inch flowerpot drainage saucer with potting soil. Sprinkle the seeds on the soil, lightly spray with water until soil is damp, not soggy. Loosely cover with plastic wrap until seeds sprout. Remove plastic wrap, and place tray near a sunny window.

Your children can create a village setting by placing cute objects in the grass: miniature toys, trees made from twigs, tiny flowers from tissue paper, and figures molded from clay. Pathways can be added to the village by clipping the grass however you wish. Add miniature bunnies and wrapped candy eggs as Easter approaches.

■ ■ ■

*Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."*

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

# Life & Style

## Ruby's presence shakes up staid Vienna Opera Ball

By GEORGE JAHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**VIENNA** (AP)—The TV cameras were told to ignore her, and Austria's rich and powerful sought to avoid her. But amid all the bling on display at the Vienna Opera Ball, most eyes were still on one particular jewel—Ruby.

With Ruby, a.k.a. Karima el-Mahroug, at the center of the scandal plaguing Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, her scheduled appearance at Austria's ball of balls on Thursday was a sensation most of the wealthy and influential guests present would have been happy to do without.

State TV was initially ordered to avoid covering her. But with the Berlusconi scandal big news, she was hard to keep out of sight—let alone out of mind.

Ruby's comments on the eve of the ball added to Vienna high society's bad case of nerves.

"I can't waltz," she told reporters before pausing for effect, and adding with a smile: "I can only belly dance."

For centuries, Vienna's high society has waltzed blissfully through wars, recessions and firebomb-throwing anarchists opposed to the moneyed decadence they think such events represent. But it has never had to deal with an 18-year-old dancer said to have been paid by Berlusconi for sex while she was still underage—and the ripples caused by her presence relegated Libya's revolution and other top news events to the back pages of Austria's newspapers.

Vienna's top priest was drawn into the fray, citing scripture in favor of her attendance. The ball's organizer threatened to ban Richard Lugner, the quirky 78-year old millionaire who invited her and former "Dallas" star Larry Hagman.

State television's program head ordered cameras and commentators to make a wide detour around her. That, in turn resulted in protests from TV employees who see her as the biggest news of the event.

As guests started striding over the red carpet leading to the entrance that ban appeared to have been at least partially withdrawn, with hosts occasionally mentioning Ruby's presence. A camera showed her arriving, barely visible because of the paparazzi, and later panned over the box she shared with her entourage.

In typical reporting ahead of the ball, this week's front cover of News, one of Austria's most widely read magazines, was dominated by a montage of Lugner in tails and top hat, his arm around a scantily clad Ruby and the headline "Scandal Surrounds the Opera Ball." Moammar Gadhafi and the uprising in Libya is relegated to a narrow strip running down the left side of the cover.

To underestimate the uproar is to ignore the place that the Vienna Opera Ball holds in the hearts of Austrians.

AP

Karima el-Mahroug and her host Austrian businessman Richard Lugner, from left, enjoy a dance during the traditional Opera Ball in front of the state opera in Vienna, Austria, on Thursday, March 3, 2011.

It is THE event of the annual ball season that stretches from autumn into late winter. Watched on TV by millions from home, champagne-sipping government leaders hobnob with captains of industry from ornate boxes high above the main floor of the State Opera, while the less wealthy and influential crowd tables below. Their hands daintily perched on those of their male partners, debutantes—daughters of the rich and famous—celebrate their coming out into the privileged upper echelons by opening the festivities with a lilting waltz.

Some of Lugner's past guests among a panoply of Hollywood actresses and other lookers had already raised carefully plucked opera ball eyebrows. He hosted porn star Dolly Buster in 1999 and burlesque artist Dita von Teese three years ago.

But his pick of Ruby—after actress Bo Derek backed out—was simply too much for some in Vienna, where parents of the moneyed class still send their kids to manners courses.

Berlusconi was indicted last month on charges he paid for sex with Ruby, when she was under age, then used his influence to cover it up. Both have denied having a sexual relationship.

Lugner—who is reported to have paid 40,000 euros ($55,500) for her appearance—doesn't understand the fuss. "If Berlusconi liked her, she's good enough for the Opera Ball," he told News.

But for ball organizer Desiree Treichl-Stuerkh, she is a "prostitute involved in ongoing legal proceedings against Berlusconi"—and as such, persona non-grata. She said Lugner will not be given an opera box next year, adding her office had fielded calls from prominent ball goers asking how they can avoid being filmed or photographed with the Moroccan teen.

Treichl-Stuerkh's predecessor, Lotte Tobisch, said Ruby's presence "is wrecking the Opera Ball," while Wolfgang Lorenz, the state broadcaster's head of programming who issued the coverage ban, warned against "turning the festivities into a hookers' ball."

Jumping into the fray, Toni Faber—a ball-goer and head priest at Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral—sided with Ruby. Warning against hypocrisy he cited Jesus in newspaper interviews, declaring, "the tax collectors and the prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God ahead of you."

Prominent cultural anthropologist Roland Girtler also doesn't understand the excitement, noting that throughout history, courtesans and highborn ladies of dubious repute were always welcome at balls. And despite the unease at the higher levels of Vienna's society most Austrians seemed comfortable with Ruby's presence.

A survey of 850 people prepared by Austria's Humaninstitut had 70 percent of respondents saying that—now that Ruby is in Vienna—"we should welcome her with Austrian charm."

## Some see poetry in Charlie Sheen's 'Adonis DNA'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—With "tiger blood," "Adonis DNA" and his "fire-breathing fists," Charlie Sheen has practically invented a new language with his rants and ramblings.

And while it may not rate an entry in Webster's, the sitcom star's batty, blustering poetry has resounded in social media. Sheen gained 1 million Twitter followers in just 25 hours and 17 minutes—record time, according to Guinness World Records, which keeps track of such obscure achievements and had not previously crowned a champion in that particular category.

His unique lexicon grows daily, spreading rapidly over the Internet and onto T-shirts. On "The Alex Jones Show," he said he has "poetry in my fingertips," and added: "Most of the time—and this includes naps—I'm an F-18, bro. And I will destroy you in the air."

He has frequently repeated his most famous sayings—"winning," "tiger blood"—like trademarked catch phrases. Early Thursday, he announced his latest slogan—er, "fastball"—with more hype than a CBS promotion for his show, "Two and a Half Men."

"Ready for my next fastball, world?" he wrote on Twitter. "PLAN BETTER Applies to everything where an excuse now sits. Try it. U won't be wrong. Ever."

Sheenspeak could be considered a demented combination of William S. Burroughs' beat musings and those Chuck Norris jokes in which the '80s action star is inflated to mythic proportions.

"I am on a drug," Sheen told ABC. "It's called Charlie Sheen. It's not available because if you try it, you will die. Your face will melt off, and your children will weep over your exploded body."

Sheen has said his former party exploits made Frank Sinatra and Mick Jagger look like "droopy-eyed armless children." He has called himself "battle-tested bayonets." And he's said he's riding the "tsunami of media ... on a mercury surfboard."

Glossaries have sprung up to help keep track of Sheen's vivid verbiage, which he has spewed consistently during his feud with the studio and producers who shut down "Two and a Half Men" because of his erratic behavior. CBS Corp. chief Leslie Moonves has said the series' future is uncertain.

AP

In this image from video released by RadarOnline.com, Charlie Sheen holds one of his 23-month-old twins before they are removed from his Hollywood Hills home late Tuesday, March 1, 2011 in Los Angeles.

The question of whether Sheen's bizarre bravado is a ploy, a sign of mental-health problems or a combination of both has grown more urgent as it has encompassed his private life. The actor's estranged wife, Brooke Mueller Sheen, has claimed Sheen threatened to cut her head off, among other things. Their twin toddlers were removed from Sheen's home Tuesday night.

Despite the accusations, Sheen's ramblings have gone a long way toward endearing him to some of the public. The Twitter analysis firm Research.ly has found that positive sentiment for Sheen online far outweighs the negative.

Online, his best sayings have been compiled into lists, compared with the meandering speeches of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, substituted into New Yorker and Family Circus cartoons, added as subtitles to pictures of cute animals, put to song and remixed, and mashed-up with his scene from "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

Though the 45-year-old Sheen hasn't previously been widely known to be lyrical, he has penned a book of poetry before: 1990's "A Peace of My Mind," with illustrations by director Adam Rifkin. It's out-of-print, but GQ located a copy and has been publishing excerpts.

One verse: "A night of drink/ A night of hate/ A night as dark/ As last night's date."

For his tweets, Sheen built a following much faster than Ashton Kutcher, who had been on Twitter for months when the actor won his much-publicized race with CNN to 1 million followers in 2009. Kutcher now has about 6.4 million followers, while Sheen was approaching 1.4 million Thursday night.

Sheen, who has called social media a "cash cow," seems likely to profit from his instant Web stardom, though he has not done so yet. He is being advised by the startup company Ad.ly, which helps celebrities earn money in endorsements on social media.

He already has at least one grateful business—a dairy whose owner told TMZ he's been flooded with calls since Sheen posted a photo of himself holding a bottle of the company's chocolate milk. The American Red Cross tried some cross-marketing of its own with this tweet: "We may not collect (hashtag)tigerblood, but we know our donors & volunteers have fierce passion for doing good!"

Wherever his words take him, Sheen won't fail for lack of positivity. As he's said: "Can't is the cancer of happen."

# Carey 'embarrassed' over Gadhafi-linked concert

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Mariah Carey says she was unaware that she was booked to perform a concert linked to Gadhafi's clan—and she's embarrassed "to have participated in this mess."

Carey is among a handful of entertainers who were paid handsome fees to give exclusive private concerts. It was later revealed the people behind those concerts were the family of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, whose country is in an open revolt against him and who faces an investigation for possible war crimes.

This week, Nelly Furtado announced she is giving the $1 million fee she was paid in 2007 to charity; Beyonce said in a statement Wednesday that she donated her fees for a 2009 New Year's Eve performance in St. Bart's to Haiti earthquake relief once she discovered the Gadhafi link.

Carey performed in St. Bart's in 2008, but in a statement released to The Associated Press on Thursday, she said she didn't know she was performing for an infamous family.

"I was naive and unaware of who I was booked to perform for. I feel horrible and embarrassed to have participated in this mess," the 40-year-old singer said. "Going forward, this is a lesson for all artists to learn from. We need to be more aware and take more responsibility regardless of who books our shows. Ultimately, we as artists are to be held accountable."

AP

In this March 7, 2010 file photo, Mariah Carey arrives at the 82nd Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Carey's representative, Cindi Berger, would not comment on how much Carey was paid for the performance. But she noted that Carey has donated millions throughout the years to charity, from royalties from her hits "Hero" and "One Sweet Day" to her own foundation, Camp Mariah.

Berger said Carey will also donate royalties for the song "Save the Day," which she has written for her upcoming album, to charities that create awareness for human-rights issues.

"Mariah has and continues to donate her time, money and countless hours of personal service to many organizations both here and abroad," Berger said.

# Zsa Zsa Gabor to be released from hospital Friday

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Doctors say Zsa Zsa Gabor needs to have her remaining leg amputated, but the 94-year-old actress is declining the surgery.

Gabor

Publicist John Blanchette says Gabor will be released from the hospital Friday. She was admitted Wednesday after blood flow to her left leg suddenly stopped.

Most of Gabor's right leg was amputated in January because of gangrene.

Gabor's husband, Frederic Prinz von Anhalt, says the actress is taking medication and has "a 50-50 chance" of surviving for another year without surgery.

Gabor has been hospitalized repeatedly since July, when she broke her hip falling from bed.

# Rodriguez: 'Avatar 2' to go underwater

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Actress Michelle Rodriguez says "Avatar 2" will take viewers underwater and will be extraordinarily beautiful.

Rodriguez, who starred in the original, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that she has no clue yet whether she will be asked to play a role in the sequel.

But she said she hopes creator James Cameron will at least invite her to the set to watch it being made.

Going underwater seems to be a running theme for Cameron, who helped produce the 3-D underwater cave adventure "Sanctum."

Rodriguez has been promoting her latest film "Battle: Los Angeles" about aliens attacking California.

AP

In this undated file publicity image released by Fox, "American Idol" judges, from left, Steven Tyler, Jennifer Lopez and Randy Jackson are shown during Hollywood Week in Los Angeles.

# With twist, 'American Idol' down to 13 contestants

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Hollywood stage became a little less crowded Thursday as "American Idol" cut its contestant pool from 24 to a lucky 13 finalists.

Four of the final contestants are from California, two are from New York and two are from Nashville, Tenn.

Ten of the finalists made it to the next round of the Fox reality show through online and phone votes from viewers. In a new twist, judges Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler picked six of those left out for a wild-card competition, choosing three of them to go forward after they auditioned with a song.

The three to benefit from the judges' extra chance were Ashthon Jones, 24, of Nashville; Naima Adedapo, 26, of Milwaukee; and Stefano Langone, 21, of Kent, Wash.

"This is the toughest night ever," Jackson said.

Five men and five women were chosen by the viewers. They are Casey Abrams, 20, of Idyllwild, Calif.; James Durbin, 22, of Santa Cruz, Calif.; Jacob Lusk, 23, of Compton, Calif.; Scotty McCreery, 17, of Garner, N.C.; Paul McDonald, 26, of Nashville; Thia Megia, 16, of Mountain House, Calif.; Haley Reinhart, 20, of Wheeling, Ill.; Karen Rodriguez, 21, of New York; Pia Toscano, 22, of Howard Beach, N.Y.; and Lauren Alaina, 16, of Rossville, Ga.

Jones, given her second chance, stalked the stage and confidently sang "I'm Not Goin'." She was right.

The three judges had some suspiciously convenient indecision following the wild-card competition. Coming out of a commercial break, Lopez said they needed a few more minutes to decide - just enough time for Fox to air the world premiere of Lopez's new music video as the six competitors waited nervously onstage.

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Elizabeth Taylor still hospitalized in LA

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A spokeswoman for Elizabeth Taylor says the actress is still hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Publicist Jamie Cadwell said Thursday there have been no new developments in Taylor's condition. The 79-year-old actress has been in the hospital for more than three weeks for treatment of congestive heart failure, a condition she disclosed in 2004. Taylor celebrated her 79th birthday Sunday in the hospital, where she watched the Academy Awards.

### 4 US presidents unite for NBC special

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Four former U.S. presidents are joining forces for a TV special saluting public service and volunteerism. NBC said Thursday that George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush will gather for the hourlong "All Together Now: A Celebration of Service," which will air March 28. The gala, to be held at the Kennedy Center the week before the special airs, also will spotlight the first President Bush's legacy. Clinton, who has worked with the elder Bush to raise money for tsunami and hurricane victims, is the honorary co-chair of the event that will include music and celebrities. President Barack Obama, scheduled to be abroad when the gala is held, will narrate a short film on the history and value of service in the country, NBC said.

# Girl's phlegmatic fits dampen enjoyment for theatergoers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

**DEAR ABBY**: I recently attended a play with my mother and daughter. We were looking forward to an evening together. After we were seated, a young girl and her mother came and sat directly behind us. The girl was sick and she coughed—hacked, really—throughout the entire performance. Not only was it disturbing, but the coughing was so loud we missed a lot of the dialogue.

Those tickets were not cheap and we did not enjoy the play as much as we could have. What would have been the proper way to handle that situation?

ANNOYED THEATERGOER IN CHICAGO

**DEAR ANNOYED: Unless the house was sold out, you should have spoken to an usher or the theater manager and asked to be seated elsewhere. And if you were concerned about catching something, you should have asked to exchange the tickets for another performance and left.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I have an ex-boyfriend with whom I have remained friends since we broke up two years ago. We see each other a few times a year, but I haven't seen him in six months.

Last Christmas, as a gift, I bought him a bottle of wine I know he enjoys. I have mentioned several times that we should get together so I can give it to him, but he is making no effort to hang out.

At what point do I put the bottle to better use and drink it myself?

MIKE IN ST. PAUL

**DEAR MIKE: How about tonight? And be sure to share it with someone who will appreciate your company as well as the wine.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I am the mother of a beautiful daughter who has never met her real father. I wasn't sure about who he was, a fact I'm not proud of. I tried to convince myself that her dad was the one guy I really liked at the time, but as she has grown older, many of her mannerisms and little habits reflect characteristics of the other guy ("Bobby") who was also in my life then. I parted ways with both men while I was pregnant.

I am currently married, although we are struggling. I am now questioning whether I should try to locate Bobby to see if he is the father. I don't expect anything from him, but I would like a resolution. This could strain my relationship with my husband, but if Bobby is the father, I strongly feel he has a right to know. Please help me figure out what to do.

UNSURE IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR UNSURE: Because you are willing to risk straining the relationship you have with your current husband, explain to him that you need to be sure of the identity of your daughter's father because the man's medical history could one day be important for her to have. It's the truth.**

**Then contact BOTH men you were seeing at the time of her conception, explain the situation, and request a DNA test. If you let them know that you don't expect anything from them but their medical history, they may be willing to comply—and you'll have your answer.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: May I share another "pennies from heaven" story you might find interesting?

My oldest sister was very sick in the hospital, and I was heading there during the mid-morning. When I got to my car, I glanced down at the curb. I spotted a penny lying there, picked it up and glanced at my wristwatch. It was 10:30.

When I arrived at the hospital, I saw her son and daughter-in-law holding each other and crying. When I ran to them, they told me Mary was gone. She had died at 10:30.

LILLIAN C., BOCA RATON, FLA.

**DEAR LILLIAN: How poignant. It appears she couldn't leave you without saying goodbye.**

---

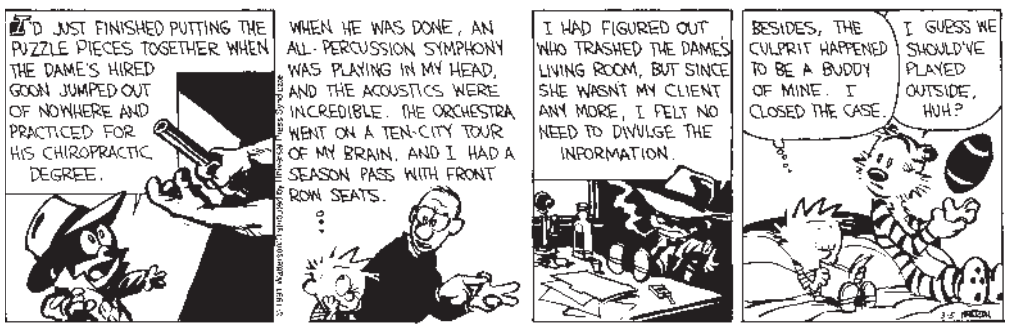
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'D JUST FINISHED PUTTING THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER WHEN THE DAME'S HIRED GOON JUMPED OUT OF NOWHERE AND PRACTICED FOR HIS CHIROPRACTIC DEGREE.
WHEN HE WAS DONE, AN ALL-PERCUSSION SYMPHONY WAS PLAYING IN MY HEAD, AND THE ACOUSTICS WERE INCREDIBLE. THE ORCHESTRA WENT ON A TEN-CITY TOUR OF MY BRAIN, AND I HAD A SEASON PASS WITH FRONT ROW SEATS.
I HAD FIGURED OUT WHO TRASHED THE DAME'S LIVING ROOM, BUT SINCE SHE WASN'T MY CLIENT ANY MORE, I FELT NO NEED TO DIVULGE THE INFORMATION.
BESIDES, THE CULPRIT HAPPENED TO BE A BUDDY OF MINE. I CLOSED THE CASE.
I GUESS WE SHOULD'VE PLAYED OUTSIDE, HUH?

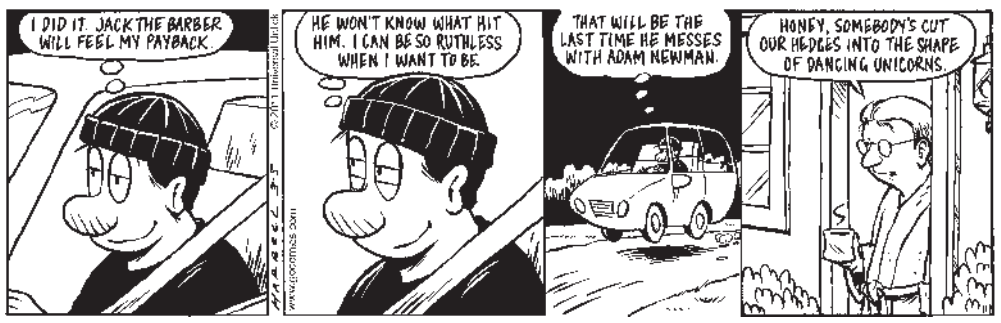
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, LIZ MAY BE THAT SPECIAL "ONE"
SURE, SHE MAY TELL LAME JOKES AND HER NOSTRILS TWITCH WHEN SHE'S ANGRY, BUT SHE MAY STILL BE THE "ONE"
THE "ONE" IS RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BIG MOUTH, AND HER NOSTRILS ARE TWITCHING

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I DID IT. JACK THE BARBER WILL FEEL MY PAYBACK.
HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM. I CAN BE SO RUTHLESS WHEN I WANT TO BE.
THAT WILL BE THE LAST TIME HE MESSES WITH ADAM NEWMAN.
HONEY, SOMEBODY'S CUT OUR HEDGES INTO THE SHAPE OF DANCING UNICORNS.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

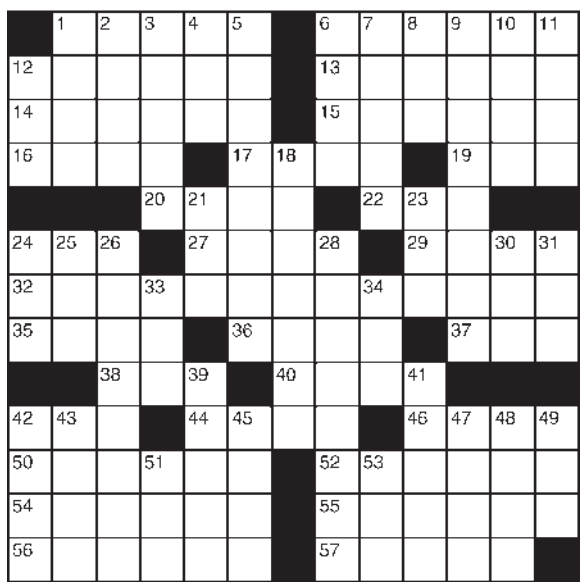
**ACROSS**
1 Nonsense
6 Ice holders
12 Vast sandy expanse
13 Utter unrestrainedly
14 Axilla
15 Spur on
16 Mexican money
17 Many millennia
19 Sad
20 "Blazing Saddles" cast member
22 Miss. neighbor
24 Fool
27 Mideastern strip
29 Con
32 Quick-pick slip, e.g.
35 Basin accessory
36 Apple product
37 Commercials
38 Catcher's place?
40 A util.
42 Costa del —
44 Bart's sister
46 Deviates off course
50 Without a country, maybe
52 Good for a dieter
54 Threaten
55 XXX
56 Gold bars
57 Fancy neckwear

**DOWN**
1 Tortoise's opponent
2 Resistance units
3 Insulation material
4 Spoon-bender Geller
5 Big name in spydom
6 Madison Avenue award
7 Carrot-top's secret?
8 List-ending abbr.
9 Ceylon, since 1972
10 Latin jazz great Puente
11 Jet forth
12 Enervate
18 Digestion aids
21 Census statistic
23 Fond du —, Wis.
24 Ginger —
25 Boar's mate
26 — Heights, Mich.
28 Fleet-footed huntress of myth
30 Kennedy or Koppel
31 "Monty Python" opener
33 Stab
34 Lemieux milieu
39 Vote in
41 Jaded sort
42 Half (Pref.)
43 The yoke's on them
45 Mid-month date
47 Certain hairdo
48 1/746 horsepower
49 Pigpen
51 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
53 Surprise cries

Solution time: 27 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | A | ■ | G | U | S | H | ■ | L | E | E | K |
| R | O | C | ■ | A | S | I | A | ■ | A | N | T | I |
| K | O | H | L | R | A | B | I | ■ | B | E | A | N |
| S | P | Y | I | N | G | ■ | R | H | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | F | E | E | ■ | C | A | R | R | O | T |
| B | E | G | E | T | ■ | M | U | G | ■ | A | P | E |
| L | I | A | R | ■ | P | A | T | ■ | A | J | A | R |
| O | R | E | ■ | F | A | X | ■ | P | S | A | L | M |
| C | F | I | F | R | Y | ■ | L | A | P | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | V | I | A | ■ | D | R | I | V | F | I |
| K | A | I | F | ■ | B | R | O | C | C | O | I | I |
| G | I | F | N | ■ | I | O | P | F | ■ | T | A | N |
| B | F | F | T | ■ | F | T | A | I | ■ | F | N | D |

Yesterday's answer 3-5



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Jake Lloyd, 22; Kevin Connolly, 37; Eva Mendes, 37; Dean Stockwell, 75

**Happy Birthday**: Deal with your emotions, losses and concerns so that you can take advantage of the opportunities heading your way. Clearing your mind of all worries and uncertainties will allow you the freedom to do your best and accomplish your goals. This is your year to shine and you shouldn't be sharing the podium with others. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 28, 33, 38, 43

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Good fortune will come to you through the people you know and have helped in the past. Your reluctance to ask for what you deserve will be your downfall. Everyone needs a little help some of the time. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Put greater emphasis on the way you explain what you want done or intend to do. You will receive the push you require if you take care of the paperwork prior to presenting your case. Don't hesitate to show emotion. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): You may be thinking big and wanting more but what you receive will be up to those you have to deal with. Take extra time and care with your presentation and strategy. Financial support is within reach if you are prudent. ✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Keep things in perspective. Favorable change is within reach, so plan to make a move, either personally or professionally. Your status is on the upswing and your ability to force issues and get your way is prevalent. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Friends, family and personal relationships should be your main focus. Doing something that can benefit you mentally, physically or financially should be your plan. Don't let someone else call the shots. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): What you do should be directly linked to your own emotional and physical well-being. Don't let what others do or say catch you off-guard or lead you down a path that doesn't suit you. Put your own needs first. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Preparation will ensure that you do well on an upcoming interview or a project. Put time aside for someone you love, so he or she doesn't feel left out. A social evening filled with unusual entertainment will lead to interesting conversations. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may not get along with everyone you meet today but the people who really count will be there for you. Expect things to be hectic, no matter what you do. Overall satisfaction will be yours by the end of the day. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Look beyond what others do or say. Focus more on your home and what you can do to make it a better place to live. An old friendship or love relationship will help you see the possibilities that exist. ✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Bring the past and present together to reach the goals set for the future. It's how you relate to old and new friends and acquaintances that will enable you to better understand who you are and what you want. Let patience and prudence be your friends. ✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You know what you are capable of doing so don't hold back now when there is so much to gain. Don't allow anyone else's reluctance or reservations to hold you back. Fair play and intuition will lead to your victory. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let your anxious behavior cause you to overstep your bounds or create a rift with someone you need on your team. Your emotions will challenge your integrity and make others question what you really want. Stick to the truth. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are creative and emotionally driven. You attract people who are just as original. You welcome change and thrive on individuality.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 6 | | 9 | | | 4 |
| | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | 3 | | 1 | | | 9 |
| | 5 | | | 6 | | | 3 | |
| 3 | | | 2 | | 5 | | | 7 |
| | | 2 | | | | 3 | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 4 | | | 5 | | 7 | | | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/04

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**PISA** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | I | O | Ⓐ | O | Y | O | N | I | C | O | L | A | L | E |
| I | U | Ⓡ | T | L | N | M | L | O | R | C | N | E | A | G |
| G | Ⓣ | S | A | T | U | G | L | L | A | E | L | R | A | L |
| Ⓢ | U | T | C | S | E | T | A | R | E | A | W | L | A | O |
| B | I | A | E | A | A | L | O | M | T | T | I | O | A | M |
| A | V | O | L | N | N | V | A | N | E | L | A | G | T | I |
| P | L | E | O | A | A | Y | E | D | E | T | O | N | Z | N |
| T | A | N | D | N | N | M | C | O | E | S | N | Z | O | B |
| I | R | A | A | O | U | D | N | H | T | P | O | O | O | D |
| S | D | V | S | N | V | R | I | I | U | G | S | T | M | S |
| T | E | A | O | P | O | E | N | I | I | R | A | O | O | U |
| R | H | M | I | V | I | I | N | L | G | N | C | D | U | T |
| Y | T | S | I | I | T | N | E | M | I | H | C | H | D | X |
| P | A | L | A | Z | Z | O | A | C | P | O | N | T | E | I |
| N | C | H | I | E | S | A | O | I | O | T | A | R | O | S |

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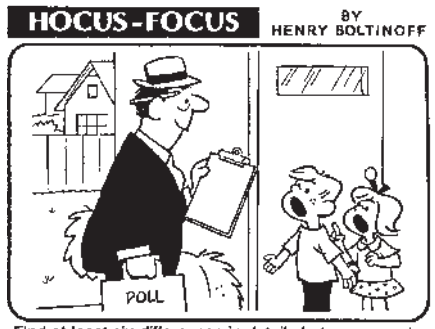
Agostini, Arno, Arts, Avane, Baptistry, Botanico, Carovana, Cathedral, Chiesa, Chimenti, Churches, Coltano, Donatello, Duomo, Gaddi, Galileo, Gualandi, Italy, Ligozzi, Livorno, Lomi, Manetti, Montemagno, Monumentale, Museo, Nicola, Oratoio, Ospedaletto, Palazzo, Pisan, Ponte, Sixtus, Spina, Tower, Tuscany, Vasari, Vedove

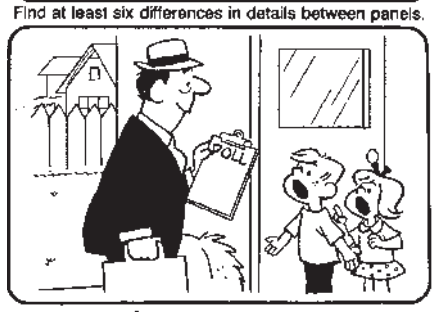
**Yesterday's Answer: Siskiyou**

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.




Differences: 1. Door window is larger. 2. "Poll" is written on clipboard. 3. Briefcase is blank. 4. Pencil is missing. 5. Fence is different. 6. Shrub is missing.

## Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| N | U | O | O | L | S | W | C | K | H | N | V | A |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| O | O | N | T | C | H | I | G | O | W | C | V | T |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| E | O | L | E | E | E | O | C | E | R | N | Y | D |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| E | R | T | E | R | X | E | G | T | E | A | N | U |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| S | F | G | T | T | E | I | D | F | I | L | H | E |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| E | N | O | I | V | R | D | E | S | E | T | L | N |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| H | U | P | O | D | N | Y | N | E | E | O | D | U |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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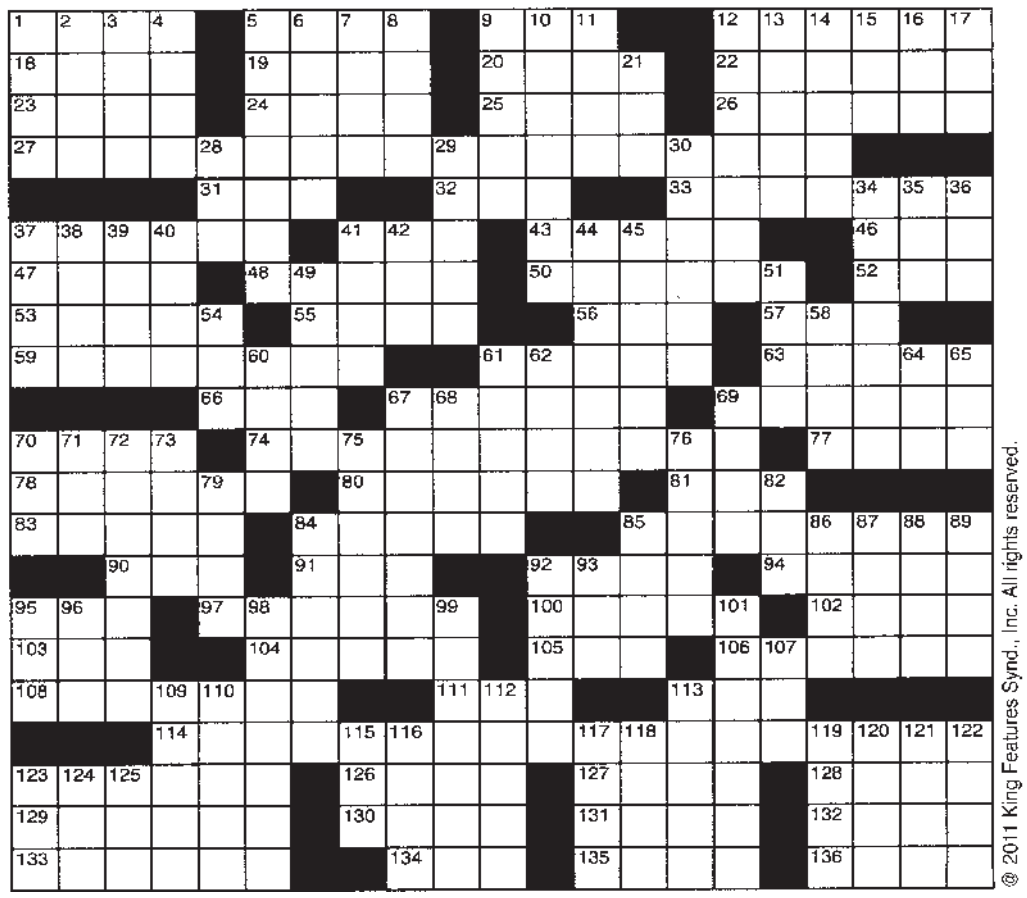
## Super Crossword

PURCHASING POWER

**ACROSS**
1 "Kon-Tiki," for one
5 Relay length
9 Lawyers' org.
12 Pontificate
18 Grasso or Raines
19 Preowned
20 Daring
22 European peninsula
23 "Giselle" composer
24 Sour fruit
25 Cupid
26 Elect
27 Start of a remark by Evan Esar
31 "Nightmare" street
32 Party potable
33 Likely to last?
37 Chemical compound
41 Gangster's gun
43 Kafka character
46 Bother
47 Homer's field
48 Pen pals?
50 Govt. notes
52 Duty
53 Part 2 of remark
55 Steel support
56 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
57 Travel agcy.?
59 Salad veggie
61 Football's Herber
63 Christine of "Housekeeping"
66 Actor Brynner
67 Penny — 69 Seoul man?
70 Grass' "The Tin —"
74 Part 3 of remark
77 Philanthropist Cornell
78 Creche figure
80 Whelan or Sorkin
81 Tear
83 Brawl
84 Made like Mata Hari
85 Chicken feed
90 Doctrine
91 Canine grp.
92 Cry of regret
94 Part 4 of remark
95 Rocker Morrison
97 — piece
100 Easily digested
102 See 75 Down
103 Skater Midori
104 — Carlo
105 "— been had!"
106 Like Mister Ed?
108 Neanderthals
111 Remind one's spouse?
113 Part of a crane
114 End of remark
123 Candles
126 Enrages
127 Monthly expense
128 Vegetate
129 Go to extremes
130 Wonka's creator
131 Inland sea
132 Tun throwaways
133 With 17 Down, TV chef
134 Comedian Louis
135 Ruminate
136 New Mexico resort

**DOWN**
1 Paper quantity
2 Filmdom's Ray
3 Custard of Castile
4 Docile
5 Brawn
6 Cairo creed
7 Uris or Trotsky
8 Churchill's successor
9 Diminish
10 Gasconade
11 Baseball family name
12 Important
13 Superior to
14 With 72 Down, "Spartacus" actor
15 Exist
16 102, to Tacitus
17 See 133 Across
21 Thirsty
28 Craving
29 Weasel relative
30 Uggams or Caron
34 Mississippi port
35 Nabokov novel
36 Deli delicacy
37 Neuwirth of "Cheers"
38 Artistic output
39 Coll. cadets
40 Qatar's continent
41 Sarcastic remark
42 Santa —, CA
44 Desert
45 Sphere
49 Novelist Cather
51 Rural sight
54 Attempt
58 Attention
60 "That hurts!"
61 Put on
62 Martha of "Jumbo"
64 Coal by-product
65 Claire or Balin
67 Fuzzy fruit
68 Govern
69 Mend, as a bone
70 Record players?
71 Caviar
72 See 14 Down
73 New York team
75 With 102 Across, table accessory
76 From Cork
79 Splendor
82 Child welfare org.
84 Island outfit
85 Summon electronically
86 Taj town
87 Film —
88 Takes in
89 Add fringe
92 Position correctly
93 Actress Tyler
95 Morrow or Dana
96 — standstill
98 "The Sage of Concord"
99 Loman portrayer
101 Prickly plant
107 Broad sash
109 Film critic Roger
110 — Gras
112 Bridal path?
113 Doctor Salk
115 Pitch in
116 Where to speak Farsi
117 Metric weight
118 Neighbor of Brazil
119 Lean
120 Concept
121 Toast topper
122 Stack role
123 Poult's papa
124 Palindromic name
125 — diem



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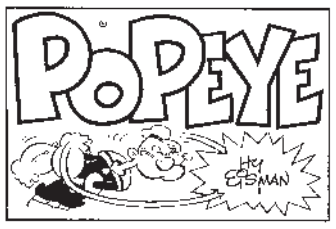

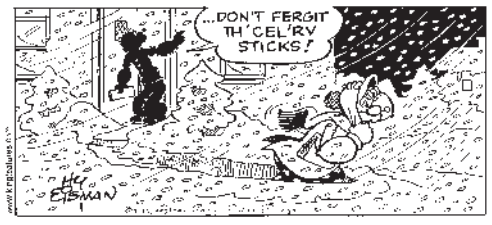


They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

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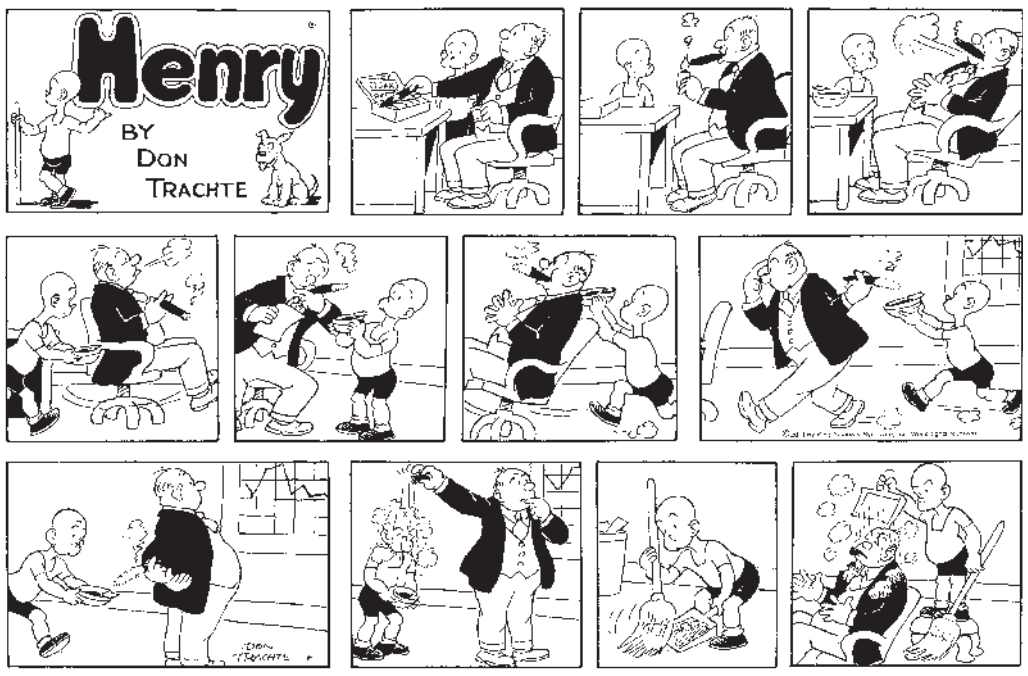
THAT PRESCRIPTION I PICKED UP TODAY..DO I TAKE THE YOYOMICIN ON AN EMPTY STOMACH? DOES IT HAVE SIDE EFFECTS? WILL IT IRRITATE MY AGGRAVATED SPLEENITIS... OR GALLOPING GALLSTONES? HOW? WHEN? WHERE? ETC., ETC., ETC., AD NAUSEAM....
PRESCRIPTIONS
Thank to N. LEDERER, LOS ANGELES, CA.
ALSCADUTO2@OPTONLINE.NET

LOOKING IN ON DOV DRAGBUTT, WHO GOES TO THE MALL TO WALK BRISKLY and BURN OFF CALORIES..OH, YEAH!
I'LL HAVE ANOTHER HOT DOG AND A SLICE OF PIZZA.. OH..AND PUT A HEAD ON THIS MALT...
HOT DOG
Thank to R. MEROLEZ, HUNTINGTON, N.Y.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN— SOMEBODY ASKS YOUR AGE...YOU TELL THEM.. and—THEY DO NOT SAY, "MY! YOU DON'T LOOK YOUR AGE!"
I'm 64..
NOT A WORD
Thank to NAT ANGILERI, NEWNAN, GA.




## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: Which scientist was the first to use the word "cell" in describing the basic components of life forms?
2. TELEVISION: Which state was the setting for TV's "Knots Landing"?
3. MYTHOLOGY: In the legend of King Arthur, what was the name of Merlin's mistress, who also was called The Lady of the Lake?
4. POETRY: Who wrote, "Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come"?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water would one find east of Greece?
6. MUSIC: Where would one find a coda to a piece of music?
7. INVENTIONS: When was the zipper invented?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is terra cotta often used to make?
9. ANATOMY: What's another word or words for capillary?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state's largest body of fresh water is called Moosehead Lake?

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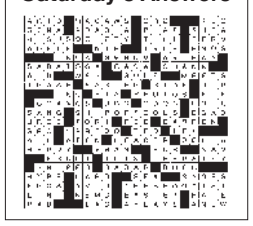
**Answers**
1. Robert Hooke
2. California
3. Vivian
4. Carl Sandburg
5. Aegean Sea
6. At the end
7. 1891
8. Pottery
9. Blood vessel
10. Maine

### Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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Saipan Tribune

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36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
CROSSWORD
ACROSS
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 5
Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYSON VALLEJERA
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-perfect weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.
In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was

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# Magic rally from 24 down to stun Heat

## NBA BRIEFS

### Celtics F Davis will miss a week

**BOSTON** (AP)—Boston Celtics forward Glen Davis will miss a week with a left knee injury. An MRI on Thursday showed that Davis has patellar tendinitis, but no major damage. Davis, in his third season out of LSU, was injured in the Celtics' 115-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night. He is averaging 11.6 points and 5.3 rebounds. Boston also announced they have signed veteran forward Sasha Pavlovic, who has played in Utah, Cleveland, Minnesota, New Orleans and Dallas. On Wednesday, Troy Murphy, another new addition to the team, made his debut. He had one point and two rebounds in 14 minutes.

### Mavericks sign G-F Corey Brewer

**DALLAS** (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks have signed forward Corey Brewer, giving them a young, athletic swingman who is likely to help most on defense. Brewer was waived Tuesday by the New York Knicks. As soon as he cleared waivers, he agreed to a multi-year deal with the Mavericks. Brewer averaged 8.6 points and 2.7 rebounds this season. He was dealt from Minnesota to the Knicks as part of the blockbuster deal that sent Carmelo Anthony to New York. The 6-foot-9, 188-pound Brewer was the seventh overall pick in 2007 after helping Florida win consecutive NCAA championships. In Dallas, he's likely to most be used to cover perimeter players.

### Bulls sign Rasual Butler

**CHICAGO** (AP)—The Chicago Bulls have signed swingman Rasual Butler, hoping he can help them in their push for the top seed in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls announced the move on Thursday. He had been waived earlier in the week by the Los Angeles Clippers. The 31-year-old Butler appeared in 41 games with the Clippers, averaging 5.0 points in 18.1 minutes per game. In eight-plus seasons, he has averaged 8.6 points and shot 36.1 percent on 3-pointers. The Bulls are third in the conference at 41-18, behind Boston and Miami. Their next game is Friday at Orlando.

**MIAMI** (AP)—This time, the Orlando Magic started their comeback in plenty of time to beat the Miami Heat.

Down by 24 in the third quarter, the Magic went on an unbelievable 40-9 run over the next 15 minutes and shocked the Heat 99-96 on Thursday night—Orlando's biggest comeback win of the season, by far.

Jason Richardson scored 24 points for Orlando, 11 of them to kickstart the epic burst. Jameer Nelson scored 12 of his 16 in the second half and Dwight Howard finished with 14 points and 18 rebounds for the Magic, who trailed 73-49 after a dunk by LeBron James with 8:57 remaining in the third quarter.

They outscored Miami 50-23 the rest of the way.

"Well, that defies explanation," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said.

Orlando nearly rallied from a 23-point deficit in the final 7 1/2 minutes when the teams last met early last month, missing a potential game-tying shot in the final seconds that night on its home floor.

So on Thursday, the Magic started rallying much sooner. Miami missed 17 of 22 shots from the field—and an alarming 7 of 8 from the line—during Orlando's run, during which Richardson scored 17 points and made all five of his tries from 3-point range.

Ryan Anderson scored 15 and Gilbert Arenas added 11, including a pair of big 3-pointers in the fourth.

James scored 29 and Dwyane Wade had 28 for Miami, which trailed 97-96 with 9.6 seconds left. J.J. Redick pushed the lead to three with a pair of free throws, and Chris Bosh—who was not the primary option on the play—and James missed 3-point attempts in the final seconds.

Mike Miller made a 70-footer for Miami moments after the halftime buzzer, something that looked inconsequential when the Heat were leading by 18 at the time.

The final margin? Three points.

And given how the first half went, the loss was nothing short of stunning.

"We need to keep on pushing through," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "There's no other way to say it. ... The tide turned."

AP

Orlando Magic's Jason Richardson, left, drives to the basket as Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) defends in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, March 3, 2011.

The game was significant in the standings.

Miami is now two games behind Boston—three in the loss column—for the best record in the Eastern Conference. And Orlando, which has very quietly won four straight, is now just 3 1/2 games behind Miami in the Southeast Division.

Orlando closed the third quarter on a 22-7 run, pulling to a very manageable 80-71 going into the fourth. The Magic made four 3-pointers in the final 8:40 of the period, three of those by Richardson.

He and the Magic were just getting started, ripping off an 18-2 burst to open the fourth.

In all, over a 15-minute stretch, the Magic made twice as many 3-pointers (8) than the Heat had field goals of any sort (4). And the Heat, who made their first 17 foul shots of the night, then couldn't get anything to go down.

James made his first 11 shots when the teams last met in Orlando a month ago, so the Magic were quite possibly relieved when his first attempt Thursday bounced harmlessly away.

Ah, a mere temporary blip for the two-time MVP.

James and Wade could have played 2-on-5 in the first half, and it might not have mattered. The score after 24 minutes: Miami's two biggest stars 47, Magic 45. James wound up making nine straight shots after that first miss - his streak stretched all the way to the midpoint of the third quarter—and Wade was 10 for 12 from the field by halftime, as the Heat took a 63-45 edge into the locker room.

And it could have been worse. Miami's lead was 22 before Anderson hit a pair of 3-pointers late in the half, and then Miller swished his desperation shot that didn't count.

The lead reached 73-49 in the third, and the Magic looked anything but interested.

Appearances couldn't have been more deceiving.

As has been the case so many times with Miami this season, things took a quick—and in this case, downright stunning—turn.

"I think our guys are very anxious right now and they want it so bad," Spoelstra said. "This will eventually help us. None of us want to talk about it right now, but we will eventually get over this hump."

In the last Heat home game, they wasted a 15-point lead before losing to the New York Knicks. At Orlando a month ago, Miami was up by 23 with 7:40 left before surviving a white-knuckle finish. A 23-point lead in Indiana was all but squandered a couple weeks ago, and there was the stunning 22-point collapse in a home loss to Utah in November.

This might have been the worst of all.

### Nuggets 103, Jazz 101

At Salt Lake City, Aaron Afflalo shook off a sore ankle to score 19 points, including a 3-pointer with 11.4 seconds to play to help Denver hold on against Utah.

Ty Lawson scored 22 points, and Nene and Chris Andersen each added 13 to give the Nuggets their fifth win in six games the deal that sent Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups to New York.

The Jazz had an unlikely chance to send the game into overtime, but Andrei Kirilenko fumbled the ball away as the buzzer sounded.

C.J. Miles had 22 points, and Devin Harris had 21 points and nine assists for Utah, which lost its seventh straight at home—the team's worst home skid since 1982. The Jazz fell to 1-6 under new coach Ty Corbin.

# Levin leads windy Honda Classic

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** (AP)—Spencer Levin would have needed a 9-iron to reach the decorative fountains in the lake near the 18th fairway, and yet as he walked toward the green he could feel their mist.

It was that windy Thursday at the Honda Classic. Pins rattled, putters shook and scores soared as the PGA Tour began its annual Florida swing in breezes blustery rather than balmy.

Levin handled the conditions best, shooting a 3-under 67 for a 1-shot lead over five others. The first round was suspended because of darkness with 12 players still on the course.

Even by the standards of the Sunshine State, where wind is par for the course, the gusts of more than 20 mph at PGA National were unusual.

"It's a different kind of golf," said Levin, who is seeking his first tour title. "You get in a par mode, really, where you just have to take what the course gives you. If you hit a good drive, you don't want to get too cute and try to go at a pin, because you know pars are going to be a good score."

They were. The average score was the highest for any round this year: 73.8. That made 3 over better than average, which happened only once last year—the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

The toughest hole was the 186-yard, par-3 17th, where more than a dozen tee shots into the wind landed in the lake fronting the green. At least three players waded in to hit their second shot barefoot. Brett Quigley kept his shoes on but had to chip three times from the muck before he reached the green.

Holes 15 through 17 are nicknamed the Bear Trap in honor of course designer Jack Nicklaus, and they played a combined 1.6 strokes above par. Adam Scott played the three holes 7 over, with three shots into the water. He had a quintuple-bogey 8 on No. 17.

Y.E. Yang, the 2009 champion, parred all three holes, then said they might form the toughest stretch on the tour. He shot a 68.

The first five holes were mostly downwind, and Michael Bradley played them 4 under. He had six bogeys and two double bogeys the rest of the way to shoot a 76.

Defending champion Camilo Villegas had a 79 and still finished ahead of six players.

Eight of 144 broke par. Tied with Yang one shot off the lead were 1997 champion Stuart Appleby, Kyle Stanley, Greg Chalmers and Charl Schwartzel, playing his first round on the tour this year.

As an Orlando resident and Honda perennial, Appleby is accustomed to the Florida wind.

"It still doesn't make you feel comfortable," he said. "I played all right. I wouldn't call it brilliant, but I guess just consistent enough where I didn't get on the wrong side of dropping a shot every 30 minutes, which you easily could do."

The wind made even putting difficult.

"If you're moving around, you can't hit the ball on line," Schwartzel said. "The wind pushes you all over."

The forecast for Friday: more winds of 20 mph or more.

No. 2-ranked Lee Westwood shot a 70, as did 1994 winner Nick Price, playing his first PGA Tour event since 2008. No. 3 Luke Donald had a 73. Tiger Woods and new No. 1 Martin Kaymer skipped the tournament.

Levin, who teed off early and remained atop the leaderboard all afternoon, had four birdies and only one bogey. The Californian, who cracked the top 100 for the first time last year, is playing for the eighth week in a row and on a roll. He lost a playoff last Sunday to Johnson Wagner at the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

"I had a real good week last week," Levin said. "It's funny - as a pro, you always remember the one bad shot. And then you listen to amateurs talk, and they talk about the one good shot.

"I hit a bad drive on that playoff hole, but other than that I played great."

# NFL, union agree to 24-hour deadline extension

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—America's favorite sport is still in business—for another day.

The NFL and the players' union decided Thursday to keep the current collective bargaining agreement in place for an additional 24 hours so that negotiations can continue.

"The parties have agreed to a one-day extension," federal mediator George Cohen said in a one-sentence statement after the sides met with him for about eight hours. The CBA was set to expire at midnight, which would likely have prompted the first work stoppage since 1987 for a league that rakes in $9 billion a year.

"For all our fans who dig our game, we appreciate your patience as we work through this," union executive director DeMaurice Smith said as he emerged from the talks. "We are going to keep working. We want to play football."

Said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell as he left: "We are working as hard as we can."

Allowing the CBA to expire could put the two sides on the road to a year without football, even though opening kickoff of the 2011 season is still six months away. The labor unrest comes as the NFL is at the height of its popularity, breaking records for TV ratings: This year's Super Bowl was the most-watched program in U.S. history.

If the CBA expires, the owners could lock out the players, and the union could decertify to try and prevent that through the courts—something the NFLPA did in 1989. It formed again in 1993.

NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash said the sides had "good discussions and exchanges," and "we're going to be back here (Friday) morning."

A person with knowledge of the talks said the 24-hour extension was an opportunity to decide whether there would be a willingness to extend negotiations further.

The person, who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the talks were supposed to remain confidential, said the sides were apart on economics, but have agreed on other topics. The person would not say what the two sides do agree on.

AP

DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, left, and Kevin Mawae, president of the NFL Players Association, depart the NFL football labor talks with a mediator in Washington, Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Another person familiar with the negotiations said the two sides were not expected to resume face-to-face bargaining on Friday. Instead they'll meet separately with Cohen to hash out whether to prolong the extension—and if so, for how many days.

Washington Redskins player representative Vonnie Holliday cautioned that the two sides are "still apart" on a pact to replace the current CBA. "I don't see how we can be that close right now unless somebody is going to pull a rabbit out of the hat," he said. "I just don't see it."

While the league and players' union met for a 10th day with Cohen, even President Barack Obama weighed in when asked if he would intervene in the dispute.

"I'm a big football fan," Obama said, "but I also think that for an industry that's making $9 billion a year in revenue, they can figure out how to divide it up in a sensible way and be true to their fans, who are the ones who obviously allow for all the money that they're making. So my expectation and hope is that they will resolve it without me intervening, because it turns out I've got a lot of other stuff to do."

Besides Goodell, also on hand for the NFL were Pash, outside counsel Bob Batterman, New York Giants owner John Mara, Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy, Washington Redskins general manager Bruce Allen and several other league executives. Mara and Murphy are members of the league's labor committee, which has the authority to call for a lockout if a new agreement isn't reached.

"We'll stay at it as long as it takes," Pash said as the day began.

They'll be staying at least into Friday.

The biggest sticking point all along has been how to divide the league's revenues, including what cut team owners should get up front to help cover certain costs, such as stadium construction. Under the old deal, owners received about $1 billion off the top. They entered these negotiations seeking to add another $1 billion to that.

Among the other significant topics: a rookie wage scale; the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

Since the 1987 players' strike that shortened the season to 15 games—with three of those games featuring nonunion replacement players—there has been labor peace in the NFL. The foundation of the current CBA was reached in 1993 by then-Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and union chief Gene Upshaw. It has been extended five times as revenues soared, the league expanded to 32 profitable teams, and new stadiums were built across America to house them.

The contract extension reached in 2006 was the final major act for Tagliabue, who then retired, succeeded by Goodell. An opt-out clause for each side was included in that deal, and the owners exercised it in May 2008—three months before Upshaw died.

Smith replaced Upshaw in March 2009.

Joining Smith at the mediation session Thursday were union president Kevin Mawae, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch and several others, including current and former players. More than a dozen TV cameras and twice as many reporters waited on the sidewalk outside the mediation headquarters, along with a few fans.

A George Washington University student held up a yellow homemade sign: "Don't Make Me Watch Hockey," it read.

## NFL BRIEFS

### Source: Sanders agrees with Chargers

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that safety Bob Sanders has agreed to a one-year deal with the San Diego Chargers. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Chargers hadn't announced the deal. Team spokesman Bill Johnston says a report by Chargers.com that Sanders signed was premature, and that there was no announcement planned for Thursday night. There appears to be some confusion over when Sanders can actually sign a contract, due to the status of labor talks. The NFL and players' union decided Thursday to keep the current collective bargaining agreement in place for an additional 24 hours so that negotiations can continue. The oft-injured Sanders, the 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, was released by the Indianapolis Colts last month.

### Source: Browns sign QB Seneca Wallace

Wallace has agreed to terms on a new contract with the team, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Thursday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not yet announced the deal. The career NFL backup was 1-3 after replacing starter Jake Delhomme, who injured his ankle in the season opener. Wallace was then sidelined after a similar ankle injury on Oct. 10. Wallace recently said he wanted to compete for a starting job, and when the Browns indicated that Colt McCoy will likely be their No. 1 QB next season, it was assumed Wallace would sign elsewhere. But he's familiar with West Coast offense new Cleveland coach Pat Shurmur plans to install, and the Browns wanted him back. Wallace's contract was first reported by ESPN.com and The Plain Dealer. Also, the club has reportedly re-signed linebacker D'Qwell Jackson to a new contracts, hours before he could become free agents. A Browns spokesman said the team would not be announcing any moves on Thursday night. Jackson has missed most of the past two seasons with two torn chest muscles that required surgery. Jackson, who led the NFL in tackles in 2008, announced his return to the Browns on Twitter. "I'm backk!!" he wrote. "It's been a long time browns fans. Thanks to everyone I can assure you I won't let you down!!" ***(AP)***

# Hawk signs 5-year deal with Packers

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—A.J. Hawk's absence from the Green Bay Packers didn't last long.

Hawk's agent, Mike McCartney, said Thursday that the linebacker signed a five-year deal with the Packers just one day after he was released in a cost-cutting move.

"He's thrilled to be back with his Super Bowl-winning teammates and a first-class organization," McCartney said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The team announced the deal Thursday evening.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with A.J.," Packers general manager Ted Thompson said. "We appreciate his work and dedication and look forward to his contributions to our team in the future."

Hawk, the No. 5 overall pick in the 2006 NFL draft, previously was scheduled to earn $10 million in 2011. When the Packers released him Wednesday, they did so with the hope that they could bring him back at a reduced salary.

Thompson said Wednesday the business side of the game drove the decision to release Hawk and he was hopeful Hawk would return. Hawk was free to negotiate with other teams after his release, but clearly focused on the Packers.

Multiple media outlets reported a new deal was imminent after his release, and McCartney told AP on Thursday morning that the two sides were putting the finishing touches on a contract.

Terms of the new deal were not immediately available.

It came on a day the collective bargaining agreement between NFL owners and the NFL Players Association was set to expire, although the two sides later agreed to a 24-hour extension.

Despite his lofty draft status and hardworking reputation, Hawk began the 2010 season as a role player. He ended it as a leader of a Super Bowl-champion defense.

After season-ending injuries to inside linebackers Nick Barnett and Brandon Chillar, Hawk once again became a starter and played a critical role in the Packers' push to their Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was chosen one of the team's captains in the playoffs.

The Packers now have a potential logjam at inside linebacker. Desmond Bishop earned a new deal during his breakout 2010 season, and Chillar and Barnett remain under contract.

The Packers released two other players Wednesday, tight end Donald Lee and safety Derrick Martin.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

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| Philadelphia | 30 | 30 | .500 | 14 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 17 | 43 | .283 | 27 1/2 |
| Toronto | 17 | 44 | .279 | 28 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 43 | 18 | .705 | — |
| Orlando | 40 | 22 | .645 | 3 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 37 | 24 | .607 | 6 |
| Charlotte | 26 | 34 | .433 | 16 1/2 |
| Washington | 15 | 45 | .250 | 27 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 41 | 18 | .695 | — |
| Indiana | 27 | 33 | .450 | 14 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 23 | 36 | .390 | 18 |
| Detroit | 22 | 41 | .349 | 21 |
| Cleveland | 11 | 49 | .183 | 30 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 50 | 11 | .820 | — |
| Dallas | 44 | 16 | .733 | 5 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 35 | 28 | .556 | 16 |
| Memphis | 34 | 28 | .548 | 16 1/2 |
| Houston | 31 | 32 | .492 | 20 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City | 37 | 22 | .627 | — |
| Denver | 37 | 26 | .587 | 2 |
| Portland | 34 | 27 | .557 | 4 |
| Utah | 32 | 30 | .516 | 6 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 15 | 47 | .242 | 23 1/2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 43 | 19 | .694 | — |
| Phoenix | 31 | 28 | .525 | 10 1/2 |
| Golden State | 27 | 33 | .450 | 15 |
| L.A. Clippers | 22 | 40 | .355 | 21 |
| Sacramento | 15 | 44 | .254 | 26 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**
Orlando 99, Miami 96
Denver 103, Utah 101

### HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida** (AP)—Scores Thursday from the $5.7-million Honda Classic, played at the par-70, 7,158-yard PGA National Resort and Spa, Champion Course

**Note:** Play was suspended by darkness with 12 players still on the course.

**PARTIAL FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Spencer Levin | 34-33—67 |
| Stuart Appleby | 36-32—68 |
| Charl Schwartzel | 35-33—68 |
| Kyle Stanley | 34-34—68 |
| Greg Chalmers | 34-34—68 |
| Y.E. Yang | 35-33—68 |
| Jeff Overton | 36-33—69 |
| Matt Kuchar | 33-36—69 |
| Roland Thatcher | 36-34—70 |
| Ricky Barnes | 34-36—70 |
| Matt Bettencourt | 34-36—70 |
| Lee Westwood | 33-37—70 |
| Hunter Haas | 35-35—70 |
| Nick Price | 35-35—70 |
| Chris Couch | 34-36—70 |
| John Senden | 31-39—70 |
| Carl Pettersson | 34-36—70 |
| Justin Leonard | 33-37—70 |
| Sean O'Hair | 33-37—70 |
| J.J. Henry | 36-35—71 |
| Charles Howell III | 35-36—71 |
| Jerry Kelly | 35-36—71 |
| Alex Cejka | 36-35—71 |
| Tommy Gainey | 34-37—71 |
| Bio Kim | 34-37—71 |
| Vaughn Taylor | 35-36—71 |
| Kenny Perry | 35-36—71 |
| David Mathis | 35-36—71 |
| Rory Sabbatini | 34-37—71 |
| Robert Allenby | 36-35—71 |
| Gary Woodland | 37-34—71 |
| Tom Gillis | 33-39—72 |
| Michael Connell | 33-39—72 |
| Richard S. Johnson | 35-37—72 |
| Kent Jones | 35-37—72 |
| Andres Romero | 37-35—72 |
| Derek Lamely | 35-37—72 |
| Anthony Kim | 38-34—72 |
| Marc Leishman | 35-37—72 |
| Ben Curtis | 36-36—72 |
| Jeff Klauk | 34-38—72 |
| Robert Karlsson | 36-36—72 |
| Jesper Parnevik | 36-37—73 |
| Chris Stroud | 34-39—73 |
| Stephen Ames | 35-38—73 |
| Nathan Green | 38-35—73 |
| Luke Donald | 35-38—73 |
| Rory McIlroy | 37-36—73 |
| Blake Adams | 35-38—73 |
| Kevin Sutherland | 34-39—73 |
| Tag Ridings | 35-38—73 |
| D.J. Trahan | 33-40—73 |
| Edoardo Molinari | 37-36—73 |
| Charlie Wi | 37-36—73 |
| Davis Love III | 35-38—73 |
| Graeme McDowell | 38-35—73 |
| Johnson Wagner | 36-37—73 |
| Steve Flesch | 37-36—73 |
| Paul Goydos | 36-37—73 |
| Kevin Streelman | 36-37—73 |
| Chris Kirk | 35-38—73 |
| D.J. Brigman | 34-39—73 |
| Justin Hicks | 36-37—73 |
| Brandt Jobe | 38-36—74 |
| Alex Prugh | 35-39—74 |
| Shaun Micheel | 36-38—74 |
| Chad Collins | 37-37—74 |
| Fredrik Jacobson | 35-39—74 |
| Webb Simpson | 36-38—74 |
| Troy Matteson | 33-41—74 |
| Mark Calcavecchia | 36-38—74 |
| Jimmy Walker | 38-36—74 |
| Angel Cabrera | 36-38—74 |
| Brian Gay | 35-39—74 |
| Brendon de Jonge | 37-37—74 |
| Aron Price | 36-38—74 |
| Colt Knost | 36-38—74 |
| David Duval | 35-39—74 |
| John Rollins | 38-36—74 |
| Henrik Stenson | 34-40—74 |
| Trevor Immelman | 36-38—74 |
| D.A. Points | 35-39—74 |
| Ian Poulter | 35-39—74 |
| Chad Campbell | 36-38—74 |
| Garrett Willis | 37-38—75 |
| Louis Oosthuizen | 36-39—75 |
| Ernie Els | 35-40—75 |
| Briny Baird | 34-41—75 |
| Jeff Maggert | 35-40—75 |
| Jarrod Lyle | 38-37—75 |
| William McGirt | 37-38—75 |
| Jason Dufner | 37-38—75 |
| Kris Blanks | 36-39—75 |
| Josh Teater | 36-39—75 |
| Brett Wetterich | 36-39—75 |
| Marc Turnesa | 34-41—75 |
| Michael Putnam | 39-36—75 |
| Tim Petrovic | 40-36—76 |
| Ross Fisher | 37-39—76 |
| J.P. Hayes | 36-40—76 |
| Steve Marino | 39-37—76 |
| Michael Bradley | 36-40—76 |
| Tim Herron | 37-39—76 |
| Jhonattan Vegas | 36-40—76 |
| Kevin Chappell | 38-38—76 |
| Boo Weekley | 37-39—76 |
| Billy Mayfair | 36-40—76 |
| Ryuji Imada | 39-37—76 |
| Rickie Fowler | 37-39—76 |
| Paul Stankowski | 39-38—77 |
| Arjun Atwal | 36-41—77 |
| Adam Scott | 34-43—77 |
| Joe Durant | 37-40—77 |
| Fabian Gomez | 38-39—77 |
| Greg O'Mahony | 37-40—77 |
| Brett Quigley | 37-40—77 |
| Mike Weir | 37-40—77 |
| Vijay Singh | 37-40—77 |
| Duffy Waldorf | 38-40—78 |
| Harrison Frazar | 38-40—78 |
| Brian Davis | 39-39—78 |
| Jamie Lovemark | 38-40—78 |
| Camilo Villegas | 42-37—79 |
| Daniel Summerhays | 41-38—79 |
| Nate Smith | 41-38—79 |
| Yuta Ikeda | 37-43—80 |
| Heath Slocum | 38-42—80 |
| Fred Funk | 38-42—80 |
| Nick O'Hern | 39-42—81 |
| Sunghoon Kang | 41-43—84 |

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

# Mixed Blood Shooters, Aschooschoo at helm

**By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Mixed Blood Shooters and sister team Aschooscoo currently lead the A Division and Ladies League, respectively, after last Monday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association matchups.

Mixed Blood has a 23-11 win-loss record, ahead of sister team Kanto Boys and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Celebrity, which both sport identical 29-22 cards.

Buddies' Bar & Grill's Locals Too is also in the mix at 28-23.

Aschooschoo jumped all the way to first place after going into Charlie's Cabaret and running the table on the Spicy Girls. Ascooscoo's record of 33-12 surpassed Yakau (30-15) of Jonny's Bar & Grill and Gaia Bar's Nasty Girls (27-18).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Aschooschoo, seen here in a file photo, shot into first place in the SEDA Ladies division with a 15-0 shutout win over Spicy Girls of Charlie's Cabaret last Monday.

## A DIVISION

### Cool Its 9, Celebrity 8

At Buddies, Cool Its won a cricket match, swept both 501 games, won a pair of sniper matches, three 301 games, and took the final team 1001 match for the victory.

### Proofers 11, Locals Too 6

At Oleai, Proofers won a pair of cricket matches, swept both 501 games, swept all four sniper matches, and a wild cricket game for the victory; they added a pair of 301 games and the final team 1001 match to its total.

### Mixed Blood Shooters 12, Primos 5

At D'Pirates, Mixed Blood Shooters won a pair of cricket matches, swept both 501 games, won a pair of sniper matches, swept both wild cricket games, and secured the victory after the first 301 contest. Mixed Blood added two more 301 games and the final team 1001 match to its total. Jeff Barit scored a 121 High Out and won all six of his matches. Barit is also currently ranked first place in the individual statistics.

### Kanto Boys 15, Balite Boys 2

At D'Pirates, Kanto Boys dominated their opponent winning all but a pair of singles 301 matches.

## LADIES LEAGUE

### Nasty Girls 9, Man Amigas 6

At Buddies, Nasty Girls won a 301 match, swept both wild cricket games, swept both 501 contests, won a cricket match, and swept both Burma Road games for the team victory; Nasty Girls also took the final team 1001 match.

### Yakau 12, Sistah 3

At Jonny's, Yakau won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, swept both 501 contests, and clinched the team victory after the first cricket match. Yakau added two more cricket matches and the final team 1001 game to its total. Yakau's Ressie Takeda and Sally Aguon both won all six of their matches, while teammate Frances Magofna scored a 154 High In.

### Aschooschoo 15, Spicy Girls 0

At Charlie's, Aschooschoo watered down the Spicy Girls with an impressive shutout performance. Rufina Guevarra scored a 112 High Out and is currently ranked first place in the individual statistics.

## CNMI

*From Page 28*

enjoying a couple of advantages against the latter as far as areas for consideration on the selection of the winning bid are concerned. Then Nauru came into the picture with NMASA receiving a copy of the surprise bid papers yesterday afternoon. NMASA also learned the Norfolk Island is interested in hosting the Mini Games

The CNMI is proposing only $30 per diem against Vanuatu's $50. Vanuatu had already hosted the Mini Games in Port Villa in 1993 and NMASA believes the council wishes to give each Pacific Games Associations member-nation an opportunity to host the regional competition. The CNMI is also more accessible than Vanuatu.

"I am confident we can get it done," White told NMASA members during the meeting.

"Nauru is difficult to get to. It will need to build or conduct major renovations on every major sports facility. It is not an attractive tourist destination and the proposed per diem is $50 per day. I am very confident that our bid will be viewed as superior. Norfolk hosted the Games recently, and I think that the sentiment will be to award Games to a country or territory like CNMI, which hasn't hosted previously," the NMASA head said in his letter to the association members yesterday.

Under the CNMI's bid package, the Commonwealth is proposing 11 events; athletics, football, golf, swimming, lawn tennis, canoe racing (va'a), beach and indoor volleyball, baseball, sailing, and triathlon. The 10 events are open for men's and women's teams, while baseball is only for men's squads.

The CNMI is proposing to have the Mini Games in the last two weeks of June. The Oleai Sports Complex in Susupe will be the main hub for the Games, while athletes and coaches could be billeted at the Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School. Saipan Southern High School will also be made available if an additional or alternate Athletes Village is needed. The nearby Saipan Grand Hotel is the Mini Games official hotel and is proposed to accommodate officials and dignitaries from participating countries.

The CNMI's bid has full backing from both the public and private sectors and the various sports federations in the Commonwealth.

The winning bid for the 2017 Mini Games will be decided on Sept. 4 during the Pacific Games Council General Assembly in Noumea, New Caledonia.

A representative of the Bid Committee will join White in the French territory for the presentation of the CNMI's bid.

## MARCHITTI

*From Page 28*

he won in two other events last month. Talavera notched the SBC February King of the Lanes crown after beating 27 other keglers in the two-day roll-offs. He tallied 837 pinfalls in four games for an average of 209.25 pinfalls. The 43-year-old bowler had 237 and 246 pinfalls in Games 3 and 4 to add with his 179 and 175 in the first two games.

Then in the SBC Saturday Night League, Talavera played for SBC/J's Restaurant and powered his team to the championship at the conclusion of the five-month competition. Talavera averaged 198.80 pins per game in the weekend league.

## ALL SET

*From Page 28*

face Trench Tech's Tavita Leuta in a featherweight K-1 Kickboxing match followed by a lightweight grappling duel between Zalaka's Harry Nekaifes and Kekai King of Guam's Barrigada BJJ team.

The MMA action starts with a lightweight bout between independent fighter Danny "The Warrior" Santos and team Chaos' Joy Inais Fred.

Then Guam's Leandro Dalalo, of team Counter Shot, will face either Roman Cabrera or Raegan Mality in a bantamweight brawl.

Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas will make his MMA debut against independent A.J. "Tayo" Mettao in a featherweight brawl.

Heavyweight Kelvin "Yo-Gee" King of Tinian will then challenge Marianas Elite's Derrick San Nicolas.

Counter Shot's Eric Aguon will debut against Marianas Elite's Josh Cruz (1-2) in a 140-lb catch-weight bout followed by a welterweight fight between Marianas Elite's Prescott Cabrera and independent Juan Ogarto.

Then an exhibition youth boxing match is set between P.J. "Lightning" Litulumar and Trench Tech's Josenio "Little Bear" Alvarez before MMA action reclaims center stage featuring Trench Tech's featherweight Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (4-0) challenging Zalaka's John Ilo.

Next on the card features independent lightweight Ben Quinata debuting against Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley followed by Zalaka's Ben "Out of Gas" Duenas being pitted against Trench Tech's Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez in a featherweight battle.

Then independent light heavyweights Saimon Sebuu and Robert "Moji" Mojica square off before Jesse Santos clashes with Marlon Gardee in a 140-lb catch-weight bout.

A pair of super heavyweights will then take over the cage featuring Mylo "Alabama" Lassiter (1-0) and Jarick Atalig.

After the big boys, Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios will take on Pwang's Pete Keju in a lightweight matchup followed by Trench Tech's Ningbo Slice Cepeda (2-2) taking on Kisetsu Warriors' Justin Salas in a light heavyweight fight.

Then an anticipated rematch featuring featherweights Derrick "El Piligro" Rangamar (4-8), of Marianas Elite, and Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (6-1) take the cage just before the two headliners

Tickets are on sale right now for Trench Tech's first MMA event of the year at Boarderline, 670 Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Super Market, Trapp Urban Boutique, and at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Weigh-ins for the event takes place at The Flair Bar in Garapan on March 10 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Attendance is mandatory for all fighters, team managers, and cornermen.

## COACHING

*From Page 28*

4pm to 8pm. Participants will be introduced to the sport, while other topics also include developing coaching philosophy, coaching skills, and athletes.

The second day of the course will still run from 4pm to 8pm with the instructors focusing on energy systems and developing a planned approach to training and technical skills.

The last day of the seminar will take place from 9am to 5pm with participants learning about events organization; sprints, hurdles, jumps, throws, middle and long distance, and relays. The clinic is free.

After the three-day course, NMA will start its series of qualifying tournaments for the All Schools meet. For this month, the qualifiers are set from March 14 to 17, March 21 to 24, and March 28 to 31.

Next month, student-athletes must join the qualifiers from April 4 to 7, April 11 to 14, and April 18 to 21. The CNMI National Championships on April 29 and 30 will also serve as the last two days of the qualifiers.

Athletes making the grade will then compete in the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships on May 6 and 7.

For more information, contact Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Magic rally from 24 down to stun Heat

Page 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

NFL, union agree to 24-hour deadline extension

Page 26

CNMI BID COMMITTEE PHOTO

The Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility is pictured here as one of proposed venues for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games, which the CNMI is hoping to host.

# CNMI submits 2017 Mini Games bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association submitted the CNMI's bid documents for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games yesterday.

"I have the honor and pleasure to transmit herewith the bid of the Northern Mariana Islands to host the 2017 Pacific Mini Games," NMASA president Michael White said in his letter to Pacific Games Council secretary general David Boyd.

"NMASA and the people of the Northern Mariana Island appreciate the council's consideration of our bid, and look forward to the possibility of welcoming the sporting community of the Pacific in 2017," White said.

The NMASA head had earlier announced at the association's monthly meeting on Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium that the bid documents were done and he is positive about the CNMI's chances to bring the quadrennial event here, six years from now.

"It is an impressive bid package and we are very hopeful we will have the winning bid," White said.

Initially, the CNMI will be battling hosting rights of the 2017 Mini Games against Vanuatu with the Commonwealth

See CNMI on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Derrick "El Piligro" Rangamar, left, and Chris "No Luv" Laayug will duke it out in one of the undercards of next Friday's Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions.

# Marchitti, Talavera claim February awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Triathlon's Susan Marchitti and bowling's Robert Talavera were named NMASA Athletes of the Month for February after their impressive performances in separate tournaments last month.

Marchitti competed in the 2nd Annual Tour De Guahan and topped the 40 to 44 age group with a time of 5:31:40. It was a significant improvement for a biker who only started joining competitive racing in less than a year.

Marchitti participated in her first Hell of Marianas last year and timed in at 6:22:32.75 in the 100-kilometer race in December. Then last month, she took part in the longer race—the 110-km Tour de Guahan—and posted a faster time than her mark in the Hell of Marianas. Marchitti's time in the Guam race was more than 50 minutes faster than her Hell mark.

Joining Marchitti in the February's best list was Talavera, who bowled his fifth perfect game last month.

The Saipan Bowling Center lanes supervisor posted "300" during the SBC Friday Night League while playing for the Calculators. It was Talavera's fifth perfect game after making his first one on Feb. 15, 2006. He had his second perfect roll-off on July 15, 2006 than had back-to-back "300" on Sept. 23 and 24, 2007. Talavera is the lone kegler in CNMI bowling history to record multiple perfect games.

The bowler had a good month, as

See MARCHITTI on Page 27

Marchitti

Talavera

# All set for next week's ROP 10

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions goes down next Friday in the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ball Room.

Tickets cost $20 for all seats and off-island fighters from the United States, Guam, and Tinian are expected to make it over to compete.

As of last Tuesday, a total of 17 mixed martial arts bouts, a grappling challenge, a K-1 kickboxing duel, and a pair of exhibition boxing matches are listed on the fight card.

The main event will feature a Guam versus Saipan welterweight bout preceded by a U.S. versus Saipan super fight.

Trench Tech's Jason Tarkong (9-2) will challenge T.J. Cruz of Guam's Kisetsu Warriors (2-0) in the finale fight of the night.

Prior to the main event, USA's Will "The Kill" Chope (1-1) will square off against Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (17-5) in a lightweight battle. Chope trains under the Dragon Muay Tai fight team in Orange Park, Florida.

Other featured fights include Zalaka's Joe Aldan and Trench Tech's Juan Langsangan starting off the show with a featherweight boxing exhibition.

Then Zalaka's Ton Villagomez will

See ALL SET on Page 27

# Coaching course, All Schools qualifiers set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will start its track and field season this month with a coaching course and qualifying events for the 2010 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships.

The coaching course will be held for three days or from March 10 to 12 at the Oleai Sports Complex with Elias Rangamar and Ronald Olopai as instructors. Rangamar is the CNMI national coach and NMA development director and holds a Level 5 Academy Coach certificate from the International Association of Athletics Federations. Olopai is the Commonwealth assistant coach (throwing) and has an IAAF Level 2 throw coach certificate.

Rangamar and Olopai will conduct the first session of the course from

See COACHING on Page 27